

LA13

ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT ON

79 LONG ACRE

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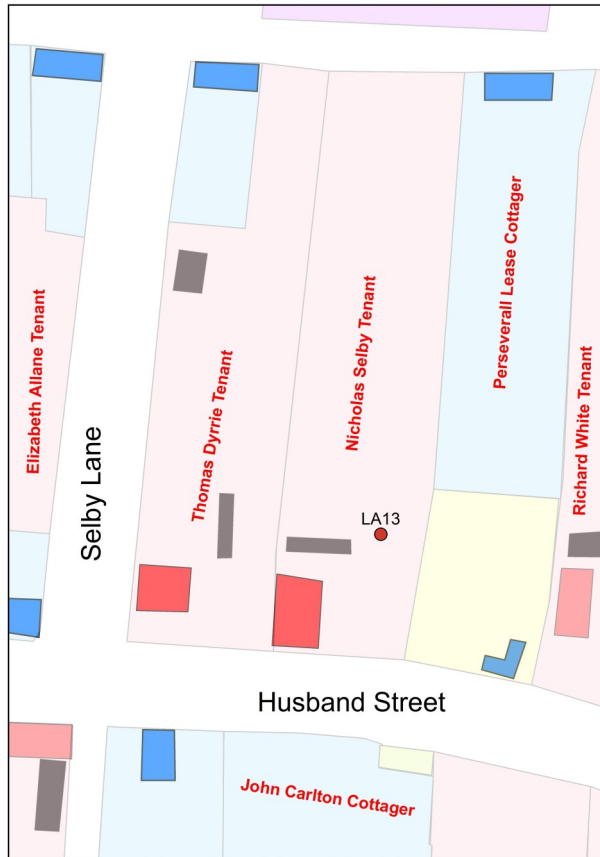
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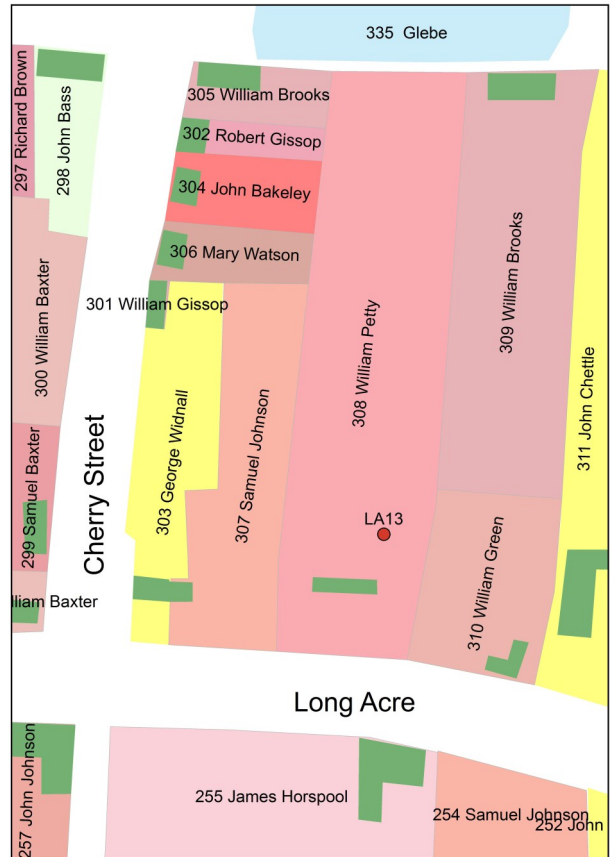
LA13
79 LONG ACRE – PORCHESTER TERRACE.

SITE HISTORY

Porchester Terrace, a line of four pairs of Victorian semi-detached houses, was built by James Walker between 1882 and 1885, number 79 being after 1883. Walker built on what we would term a brownfield site, there having been a number of buildings here before which would have had to be demolished.



Conjectural map of 1586



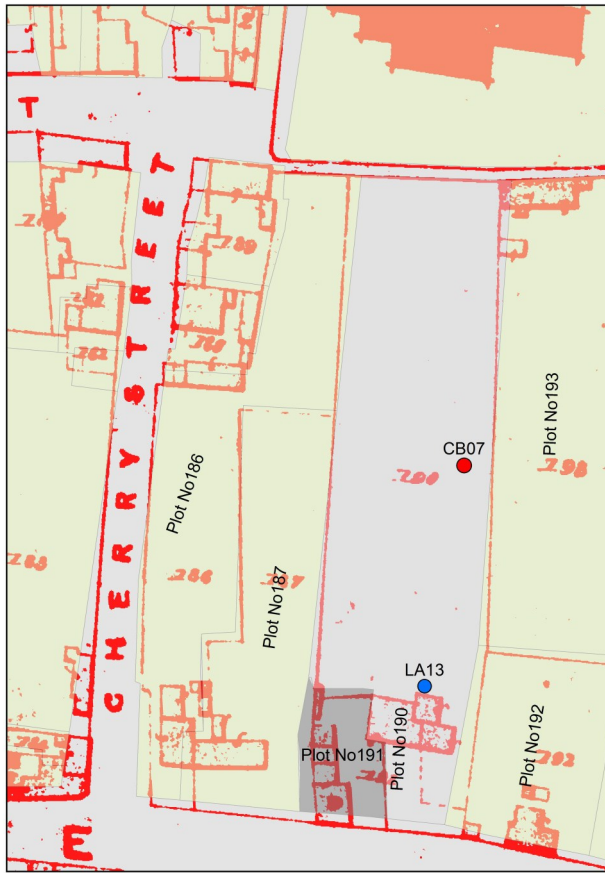
Map for 1776 constructed from an estate survey document

1586

In the 1500s the population of Bingham was largely divided into cottagers and farmers, the majority of whom were tenants of the Stapleton Estate which owned about 85% of Bingham. Cottagers tended to be self-sufficient and probably also worked for the lord of the manor on his open field strips. Farmers held strips in the open fields and usually a sizeable homestead in the village. Most farmers lived along Husband Street (now Long Acre) and Nicholas Selby, who occupied the site on which pit LA13 was dug, was one such farmer. The 1586 estate survey lists him as holding “a messuage and 4 bovates of land with barn, yard and croft”. He held nearly 40 acres of land in the open fields and common grazing, paying 30 shillings a year rent.

1776

The same piece of land, stretching from the church to Long Acre, was occupied by William Petty. He held 15 acres spread around the parish. He is recorded in the 1795 trades’ directory as the post-master – Bingham’s first. He also occupied a house (plot 276) which is now 21 Long Acre, one of the oldest houses in Bingham. We do not know which was used as the post office.



Tithe map of 1841



O.S. map for 1910

1841

By 1841 the plot had been split in two. The long portion, containing pit LA13, was occupied by William Waywood, who is recorded in the tithe apportionment table as having a house and garden here. He is listed in the 1841 census as a shoemaker of Long Acre. He was not there in 1851. Pit LA13 is close to one of the buildings on plot 190. Pit CB07 was also on this plot.

Plot 191 was also a house but with a blacksmith's shop and occupied by John Stubbs Senior. Unsurprisingly he is in the 1841 census as a blacksmith, with one son a journeyman blacksmith and two more as apprentices. The family was still there in 1851 but not 1861. The original tithe map seems to have an error in that the tithe number is shown crossing the boundary line between 190 and 191 although there is no "S" symbol indicating common occupation.

1883

James Walker started to build 8 semi-detached houses here called Porchester Terrace after obtaining a lease on 4th April 1883 from the Earl of Carnarvon. He had built two pairs (71/3 and 75/7) before the OS map of 1883 and the other two after that but before 1885. They were often occupied on rental by retired middle class professionals, often retired.

The Earl sold the freeholds to those houses for which we have seen the deeds so far in 1920, as was the case with many Bingham properties. We think the fifth Earl sold the freeholds to finance his archaeological excavations in Egypt with Howard Carter who found the tomb of Tutankhamen. As usual the Earl retained the mineral rights.



Modern map showing the location of the test pit and the extent of the development that came after 1910.

OS Licence No 0100031673

Between 1891 and 1901 number 79 was occupied by John Gilman, of independent means. We cannot work out who was here in 1911. The electoral roll returns show Frederick Taylor to have lived at number 79 from 1920 until at least 1945 but he was at The Gables in 1911.

LA13

LOCATION AND PROTOCOL

NGR	470733.339834
Height OD (mid point rim of N face)	23.041 m [error 0.027 m]
Dig dates	2-3 rd August 2012
Pit site	Back lawn to a Victorian semi.
Pit protocol	1-metre pit, 10cm spits. All spits except spit 3 sieved. A 30-cm wide slot was dug from 100 cm along the north face to 150 cm. Pit orientated N-S. North face sections only described and measured unless otherwise stated. Photographs taken facing north unless otherwise stated.

LA13

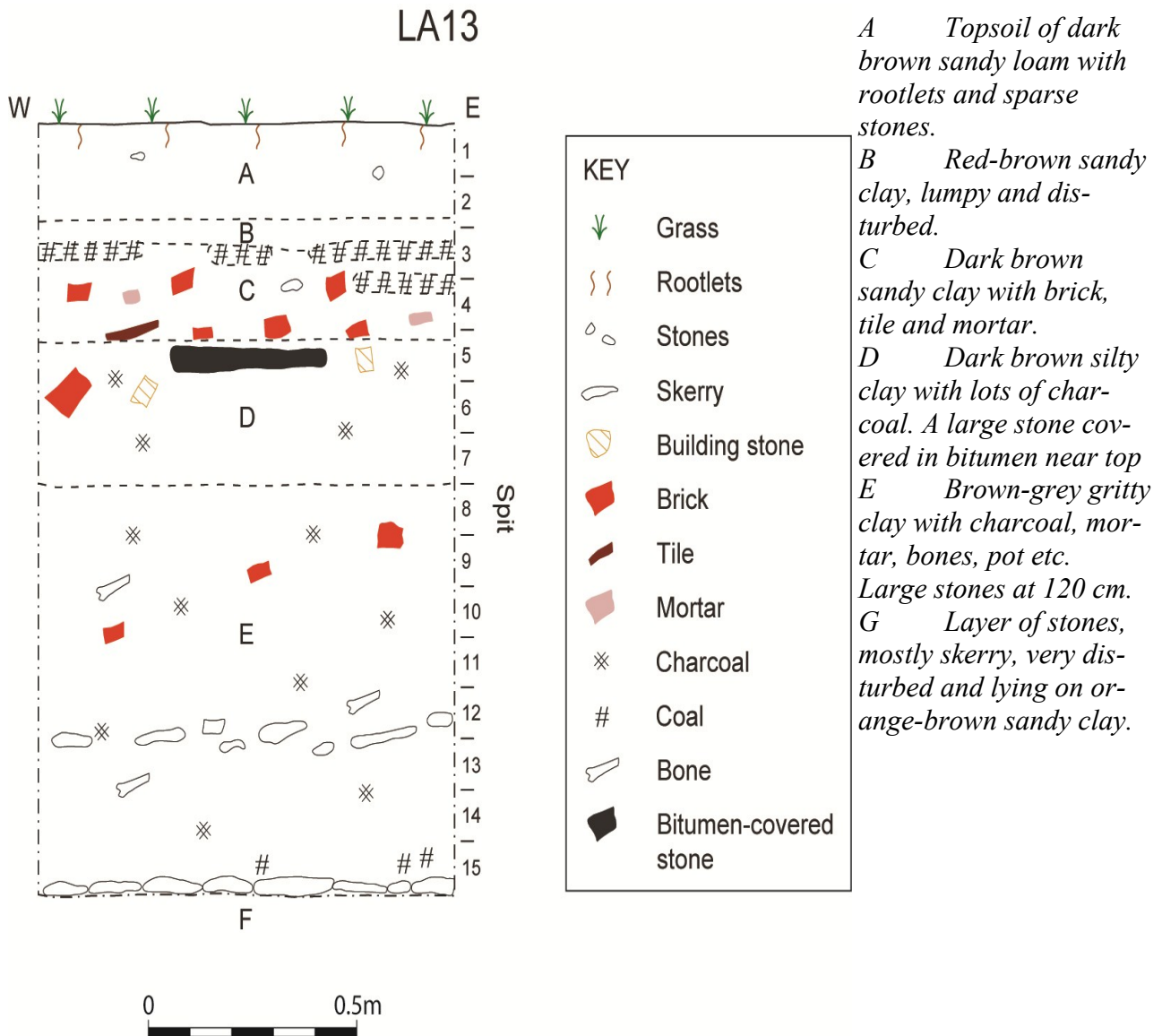
ANALYSIS OF RESULTS

Description of pit

There is a very complex succession in this pit, but it can be reduced to the following main elements:

- Topsoil to 15cm
- Disturbed ground to 70 cm
- Topsoil and subsoil from 70 to 100 cm.
- Fill in rubbish pit to 150 cm
- Basal clay

The topsoil is dark brown sandy loam with rootlets and sparse stones. It is probably imported to the site after building finished.



A Topsoil of dark brown sandy loam with rootlets and sparse stones.

B Red-brown sandy clay, lumpy and disturbed.

C Dark brown sandy clay with brick, tile and mortar.

D Dark brown silty clay with lots of charcoal. A large stone covered in bitumen near top

E Brown-grey gritty clay with charcoal, mortar, bones, pot etc.

Large stones at 120 cm.

G Layer of stones, mostly skerry, very disturbed and lying on orange-brown sandy clay.

The disturbed ground is based on what might have been the original ground surface at 70 cm and



IMG_1560 At about 18cm, view north, showing the clay layer appearing beneath the topsoil



IMG_1561 NE corner of pit, view north in spit 3 showing the first appearance of coal layers beneath the clay.



IMG_1563 Spit 5 view north showing the large stones in the disturbed layer



IMG_1564 Base of spit 7 view north showing abundant charcoal.



IMG_1567 North face showing sondage to full depth..

there are several layers. These are:
 Red-brown sandy clay c 5cm thick mixed with soil
 Layer of coal, lumps and dust c 5cm max thickness.
 Dark brown sandy clay with building material and voids to 42 cm depth
 Dark brown silty clay with voids and plentiful building stones, some big. Layer of charcoal near the bottom at 70 cm depth

Beneath the disturbed layer there is a change. For about 10 cm between 60 and 70 cm depth there is dark brown-black soil with charcoal layers. This might be an original ground level of topsoil with layers of ash from bonfires and underlying subsoil.

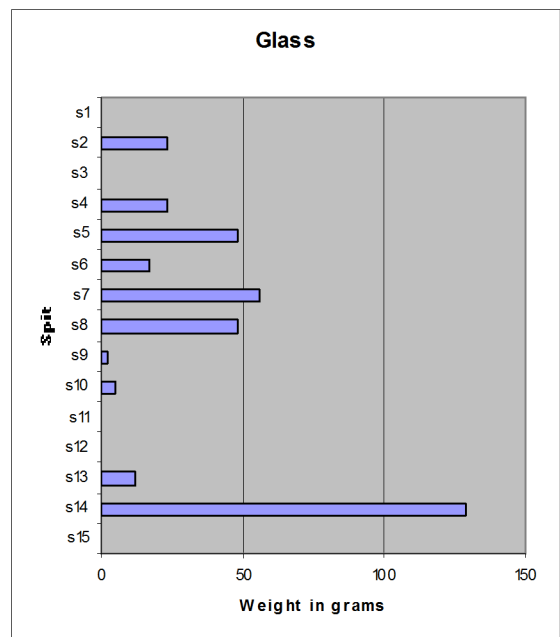
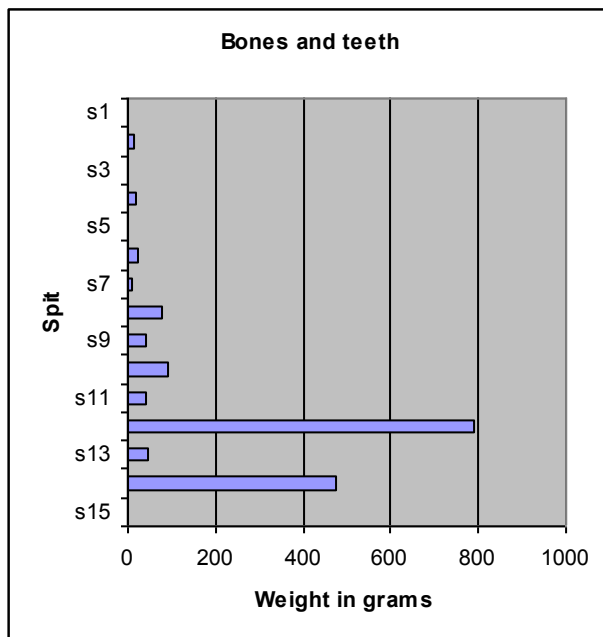
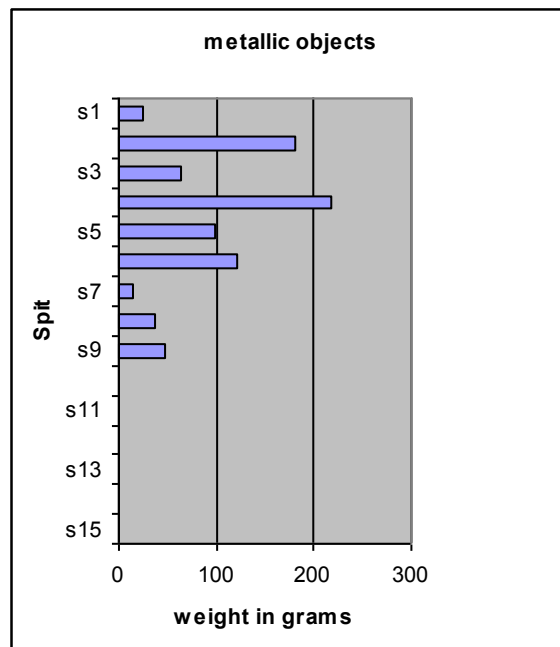
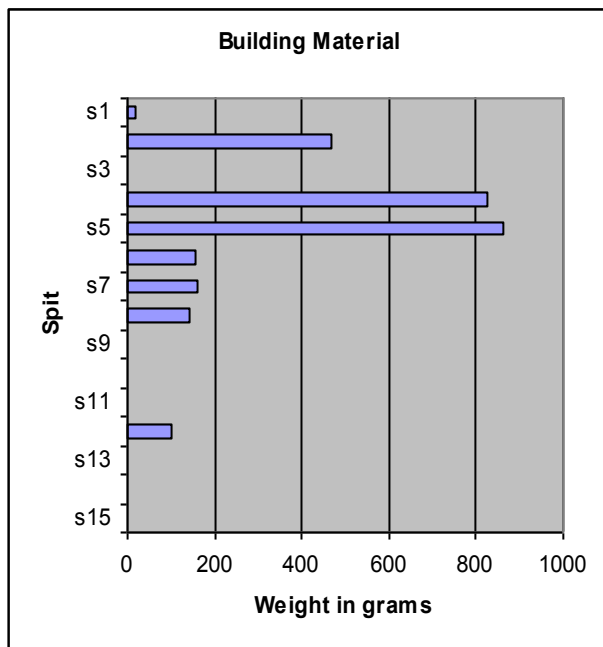
The top of the pit is not clear, but is somewhere between 80 and 100 cm depth. The fill is uniformly dark brown silty clay to a depth of 150 cm with abundant inclusions of pottery, bones, other material showing little age variation with depth.

The basal clay is orange-brown sandy and it is probably till. There is a layer of mostly skerry stones on the disturbed surface of the clay mixed with bones and pot and there is one piece of oolithic limestone and medium grained sandstone.

Finds

The distribution of building materials shows a concentration at the bottom of the topsoil. Included here are brick, roof tile, slate and a piece of drain.

Another large collection is from 30 to 50 cm depth. This includes both brick pieces and whole bricks, including 2 ¾ inch bricks, squared off stone floor tiles, Welsh sate, roofing tile, mortar, large pieces of concrete, plaster and clay lumps. Sandy siltstone measuring 38 x 24 cm, slightly smaller stones with a covering of bitumen, fragments of dressed Carboniferous limestone were



found at this level. The plaster recovered from this level is white with reed impressions on the under side

Lesser amounts of building material, especially brick and plaster were recovered down to below the base of the disturbed ground at 80cm. Then nothing in the fill until the layer of stones and bones recorded at 110 to 130 cm depth. Here are some pieces of pink plaster including one with a pink daub.

Bones and teeth occur at intervals in small amounts down to 110 cm depth, then they are abundant to 140 cm.

Metallic objects occur only in the topsoil and the disturbed ground, none having been found below 90 cm depth. Most common are nails, which occur from the topsoil to 90cm. Other items include screws, a spring, washers, a hinge, a belt buckle, nuts and possible window lead.

Several pieces of clinker were found between 10 and 90 cm depth.

Miscellaneous items are concentrated in the topsoil and include a 1971 penny and half penny, a glass marble, metal and bone buttons and a slate pencil. An oyster shell was recovered from 70-80 cm depth.

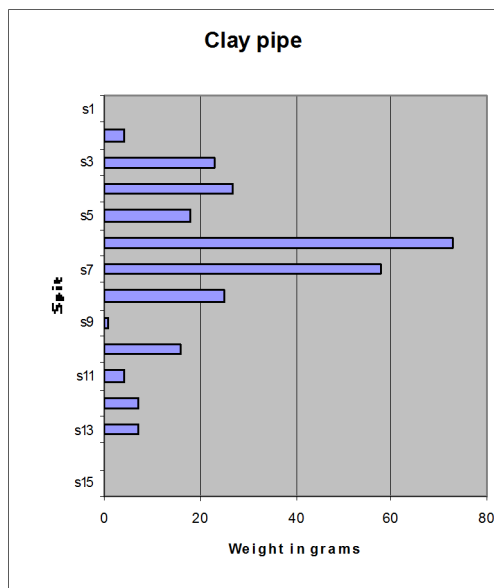
Coal occurred from 30 to 130 cm depths.

Glass was distributed bimodally. The upper spread was in all spits from 10 to 100 cm, but with a rapid fall off below 80 cm, which was the top of the soil unit below the disturbed ground. The maximum lower distribution was between 120 and 140 cm.

In the upper distribution clear glass was found down to 70 cm. It was either bottle/jar or flat 1/16th inch window glass. Some pale green window glass, also very thin was found and one piece had a stained margin where it fitted into lead. There was a number of pieces of green, dark green bottle glass. A few pieces had a strong gold patina and one was burnt.

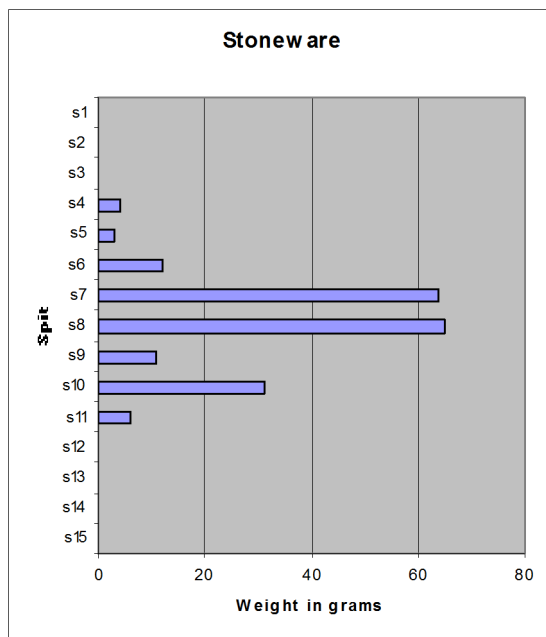
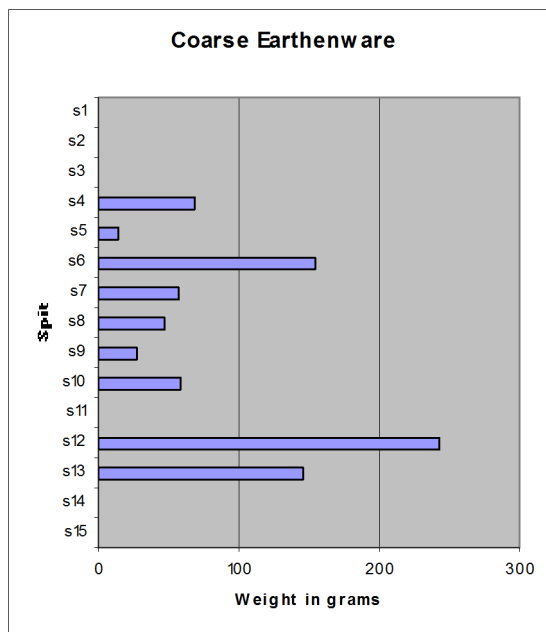
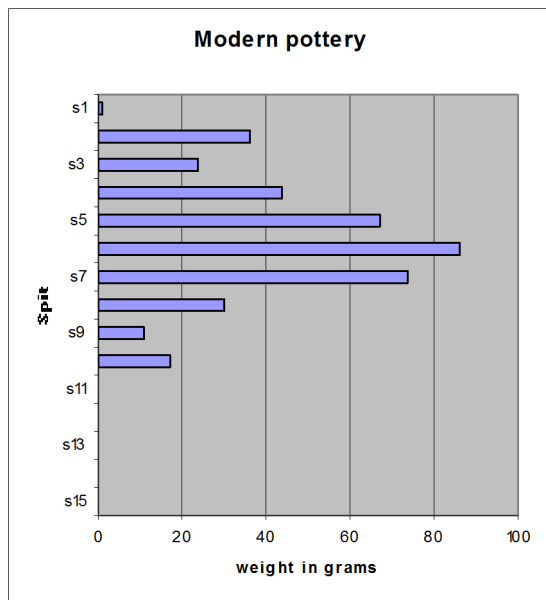
The lower distribution included brown jar/bottle, 1/16th inch green window glass and pieces from dark green bottles. One large piece being from a neck could be 18th C.

72 pieces of clay pipe were recovered. Nearly all were stems and 62 of them were later than 1750 in date. The few pieces of bowl that could be dated more closely were either 1800-1900 or 1850-1900. The majority of the finds were collected from 50-70cm depth, which is the lowest parts of the disturbed ground. The least were collected from 80-90 cm depth. None were found below the prominent layer of stones and bones between 110 and 130 cm depth.



Of the ten fragments that were early one was found among the building debris between 30 and 40 cm depth. Nine of them were found below 70 cm, but there were still a couple of post 1750 stems down to 100 cm depth. None of the early fragments could be closely dated, which means that they were all loosely 17th to mid 18th C.

131 sherds of Modern pottery were collected. They



ranged from topsoil to 100 cm depth with the maximum between 40 and 70 cm depth. There is a great diversity in fabric type, though White Ware dominates with 38% of the total. Those that could be identified were from plates. Some pieces were decorated with a gold line and sparse gold-brown fronds. The gold line has been seen in other pits. Transfer Print sherds were mostly blue and white or pale blue and white. None were clearly identified as Willow pattern. One sherd of blue-purple ware type was seen. The sherds were from plates and bowls, including a heavy coarse ware that might have been a wash bowl. Other sherds include Flow Blue, Majolica, Staffordshire White Salt-glaze Stoneware, one sherd of pure white porcelain and some hand-painted sherds. Most of these were blue and white and, though rather small, looked Chinese, but they were earthenware, suggesting that they were copies made in England. It is possible that they date from the late 18th C. One sherd was hand painted brown on white and also earthenware. Cane-coloured Ware and Mocha Ware were fairly common. The two are hard to distinguish, when only small sherds are available, particularly regarding the fine ware. Some of the Cane-coloured Ware was coarse ware and likely to be kitchenware. Some sherds attributed to Mocha are colour banded, but with a white base. The Staffordshire White Salt-glaze Stoneware occurs between 30 cm depth and 100 cm, as with other fabric types not conforming to any stratigraphical order. One very unusual type was not white, but very pale grey-blue. The Flow Blue is doubtful identification, but some of the pieces had a blue rim fading into the white body and were from plates.

Overall the sherds that could be identified were from plates of different sizes, bowls, cups, a jug and dishes. The date range covers the 18th and 19th centuries with a possibility of early 20th C.

There were five sherds of Unglazed Red Earthenware from topsoil to 100 cm depth.

The coarse earthenware was spread from 30 to 100 cm depth and a second high between 110 and 130 cm depth. About 47% of the sherds were red-bodied black glazed coarse earthenware and they all were in the upper part of the pit. With them were some brown-glazed and light-bodied black glazed coarse earthenware. One of the red-bodied sherds could be identified as from a jar.

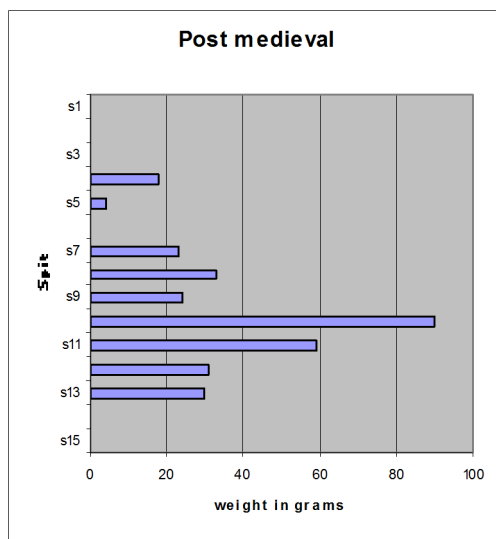
The lower collection consisted of pink-bodied coarse

earthenware, Yellow Coarse Earthenware and a single sherd of Vitrified Coarse Earthenware quite possibly from an over-fired pink-bodied vessel. One Yellow Coarse Ware sherd was recognisably a base to a pancheon.

34 sherds of Stoneware were recovered, all of three of which were made in Nottingham or Nottingham/Crich and were 18th C. The three exceptions are one sherd of Derbyshire-made stoneware dated 1840-1950 and two also from Derbyshire dated 1760-1840.

The earliest are orange fabric Nottingham/Crich dated 1690-1715. All the rest are Nottingham made dated 1720-1790. Few of the sherds were good enough for the original vessel to be identified. The few that were include flasks, bowls and a cup.

Most numerous of all the sherds were post medieval and they were found at all depths from 20 to 130 cm. There was no stratification in the distribution. Combed Staffordshire Slipware was found at 80 and 130 cm depth. Midland Black Ware from 30 to 130 cm.



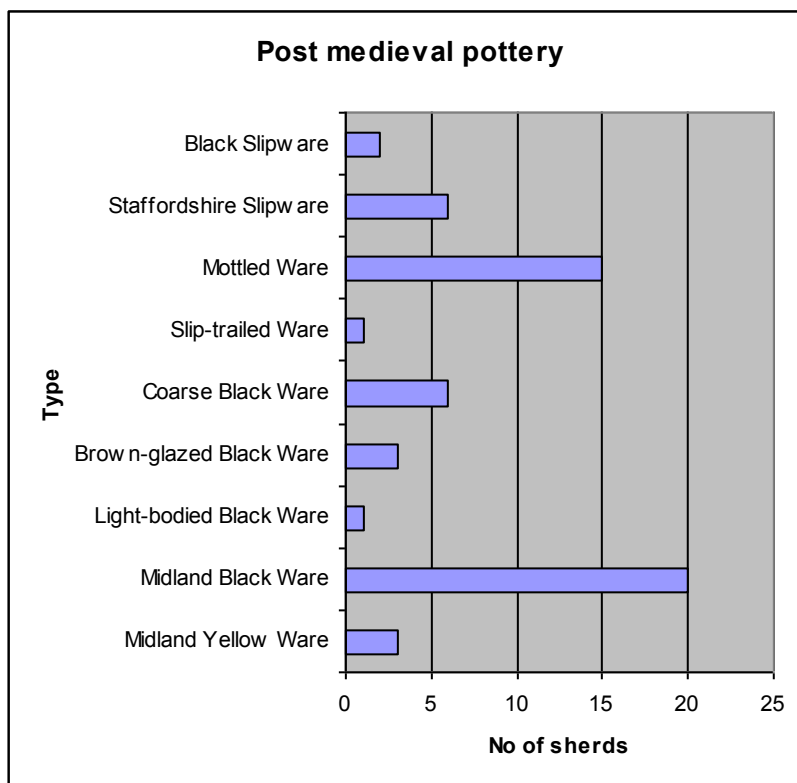
The Midland Black Ware (1575 –1725) was most numerous. Much of it was red-bodied and had a shiny black glaze and several of the pieces were thought to be from the same vessel. One with a light-bodied fabric was also found and there are several pieces of a brown-glazed Black Ware. A single piece of Slip-trailed Slipware was recovered. This is generally thought to be characteristic of the late 17th century, particularly during the reign of King Charles II. Next in abundance was Mottled Ware, a common late 17th to early 18th C fabric type. Staffordshire Slipware was from the same period, as also was Black Slipware. Three pieces of Midland Yellow Ware (1550-1700) were glazed on both sides, which is unusual for this fabric and characterises the fine wares made at this time rather than the coarse pancheons etc. Several sherds

of Coarse Black Ware, some with the characteristic purple body, were found. This has not been dated closely.

One curved piece of a red-bodied, sandy fabric worked smooth only on one side is possible a post-medieval tile.

Very few pieces indicated the form of the original vessel. The few that did included jugs, bottles and bowls. One sherd of Coarse Black Ware was most likely from a chamber pot.

A single medieval sherd of Nottingham Green Glaze (1275-1325) was recovered from spit 9 (80-90 cm depth).



Five sherds of Roman Grey Ware were found distributed between 30 and 90 cm depth. One of them with a burnished loop decoration could be dated and this was loosely 3rd and 4th C. Another burnished sherd fell in the 2nd to 4th C range, but most likely to be 2nd C.

Interpretation

The topsoil with its modern coins is likely to be an addition to the garden in a late 20th C remodeling. It overlies a layer of red-brown clay that covered the whole pit and appeared at first to be the basal clay. It was dug through and found to be only 5 cm thick. Underneath it were laterally impersistent layers of coal and below that plenty of building debris.

The building debris is not easy to resolve. Some of it could be debris that relates to the building phase represented by the late Victorian terrace to which this is a garden. However, the stone work and the possible window lead suggests that some of it comes from an older building that pre-existed the present terrace. The association of plentiful 19th century clay pipe stems gives a 19th C feel to the assemblage, particularly as the majority of the clay pipe finds came in the lower part of the unit described as disturbed ground. The most likely conclusion that can be reached is that the earlier building on this site was demolished just before the time that the Victorian terrace was being built and much of the debris found at this level is from that.

There is a suggestion that there may have been an original ground level at around 70 cm depth, that is just below the layer of building rubble described as disturbed ground. It did not appear as a sharp surface, but for about 20 cm from 60 to c 80cm there is soil type that elsewhere would be described as topsoil. Perhaps the most significant observation is that many of the finds categories were confined to the section of the pit above 100cm, and often above 80-90 cm. In other words they characterise the disturbed ground and the topsoil equivalent below it. This possibly means that the contemporary ground surface was itself disturbed during the building process when the Victorian terrace here was being put up. The date range of the sherds above 100 cm is 18th and 19th C and there is no particular stratigraphy. Staffordshire White Salt-glaze Stoneware, for example is well constrained to the period 1720-1780 and occurs between 30 and 100 cm. Other fabric types also occur apparently randomly with depth.

There is no significant difference in the soil type between the contemporary ground surface at around 70 cm depth and below it to the bottom of the test pit at 150 cm, but there is a difference in the content. The single sherd of medieval pottery and the presence of some Roman Grey Ware is of no significance. All of these pieces were recovered from the disturbed layer above 90 cm depth and may have been within the soil that was mixed with the other, more modern debris.

In all other cases except for post-medieval pottery and clay pipes there is a gap between an upper assemblage and a lower one that comes in at about 120 cm. In the case of clay pipes the lower assemblage comes in at 90 cm. 120 cm is the depth at which there is a strong layer of stones and bones. The assemblages at or below this level are generally older than above. The glass is dark green bottle glass of probable 18th C or older in age. All the clay pipes from this lower depth except for two stem pieces are pre-1750, possibly 17th C. The coarse earthenware is distinctively mostly pink-bodied or other fabric types not found higher up, while there is a high maximum bone and teeth concentration at 120 cm depth. These seem to indicate a distinctive 17th or 18th C date range. However, the post-medieval pottery, which has a maximum density between 90 and 110 cm depth shows no stratigraphical distribution at all. Staffordshire Slipware, which is mainly early 18th C and Midland Black Ware, which has a long date range from late 16th to early 18th C occur at all depths. The stoneware, which has a maximum concentration at 60-80 cm depth and extends down to 110 cm, is almost all late 17th and 18th C. The presence of post 1750 clay pipe stems at depth and the persistence of Modern pottery down to 100 cm all seem to indicate the possibility of the rapid deposition of the lower 50 cm or so of the infill and its content most probably in the early

18th C, but with some turning of the upper levels possibly during agricultural processes.

The bottom of the test pit at 150 cm consisted of a layer of stones, mostly skerry but with one oolithic limestone stone lying above disturbed orange-brown sandy clay. It was encountered in the 50-cm wide slot and it is difficult to say from this whether the layer of stones is natural or was placed there. Elsewhere, stones have been found in the weathered zone at the top of the basal, glacial clay.

It is thought that the lower part of this test pit is actually an early 18th C rubbish pit. The top may coincide with the concentrated layer of stones and bones at c120cm, though it may be as high as 100cm. Overall, however, there is no indication here of any activity earlier than late 17th or early 18th C. This is interesting in that the pit is about 100 metres north of the Warner's Paddock pits that have such a good early history. It clearly lies outside the sphere of influence of the early habitations that characterise early Bingham.