

LA14

ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT ON

8 LONG ACRE EAST

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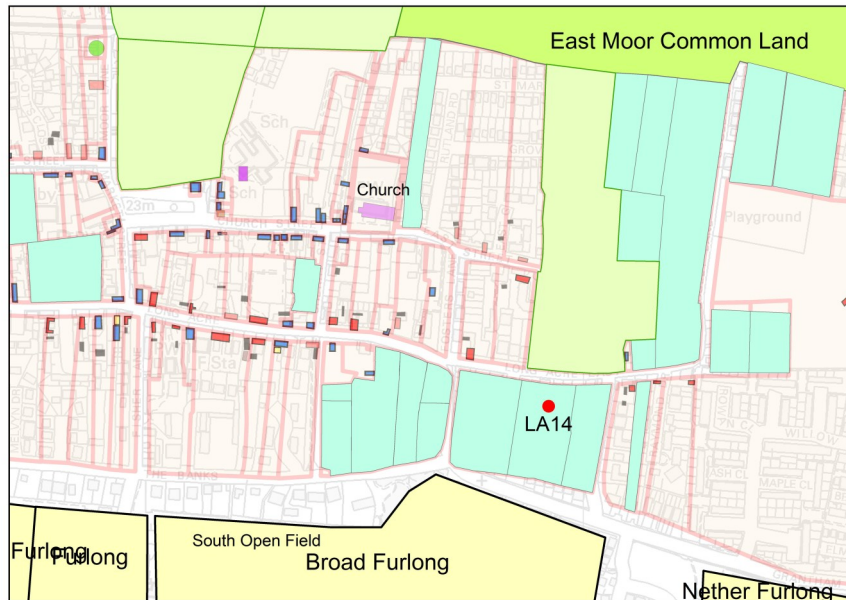
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LA14 LONG ACRE EAST

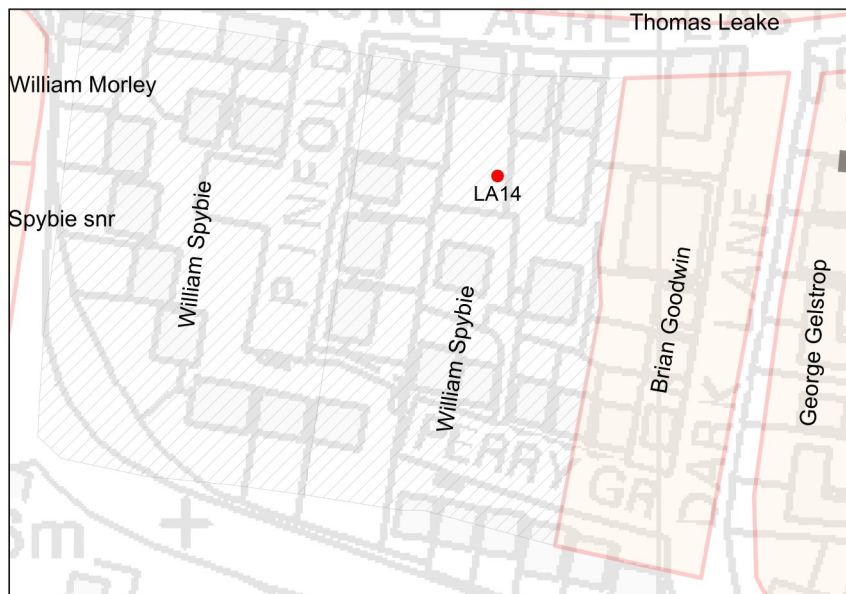
SITE HISTORY

1586

Our map of Bingham in 1586 shows that for the most part the east end of Husband Street, as Long Acre and Long Acre East were then named, was relatively undeveloped. There were a few houses with gardens or homesteads but also a number of enclosed closes of pasture [shown green]. LA14 was located in one of these which was occupied by William Spybie. He was a tenant farmer with about 60 acres of land held as strips distributed around the open fields. He also had some grazing in the meadows and moors. His “messuage yard, barn and croft with other buildings” were at the edge of the village along the east side of what is now Foster's Lane.



Conjectural map based on the manorial survey of 1586.



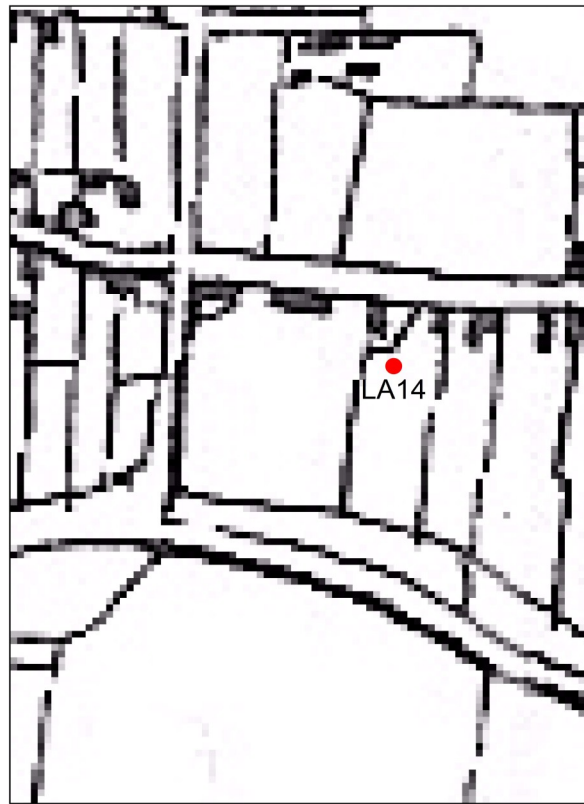
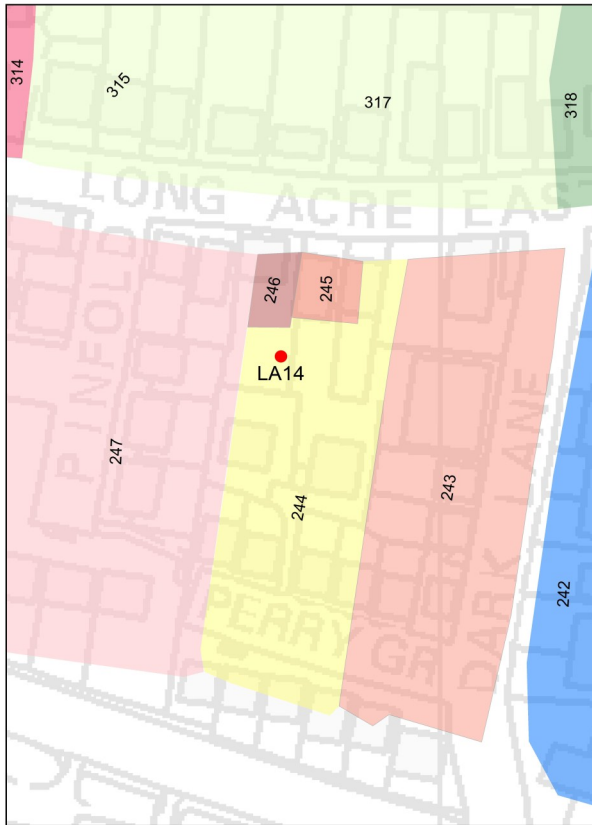
An enlarged version of the 1586 map showing the rented holdings. Background topography OS Licence No 0100031673

The Bingham estate was owned by Bryan Stapleton but sold in 1591 to the Stanhope family who later became Earls of Chesterfield. William Spybie's will of 1609 referred to his land, the remainder of the lease of which he left to his wife and son, as being owned by Sir John Stanhope. The will also refers to land William held freehold. The family was in Bingham until 1750.

1776

The estate plans for 1776 show there were three houses on the plot previously occupied by William Spybie. The main plot, the site of pit LA14, had become the homestead and farmhouse of Richard Deverall. He held only the homestead and a house in East Street. A John Deverall is listed in the 1795 trades' directory as a cooper, a business he could easily have carried on at the homestead. It seems likely they were father and son although the parish registers do not show any connection.

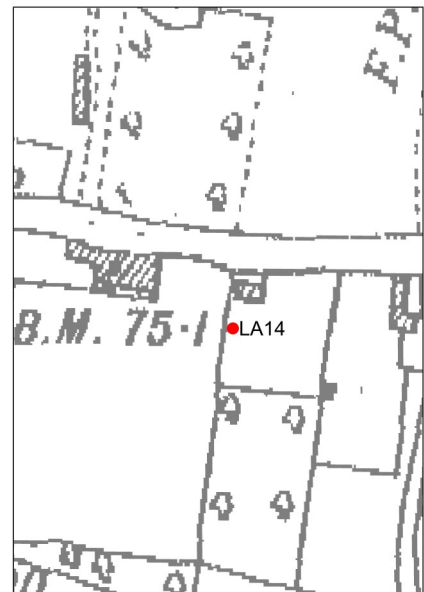
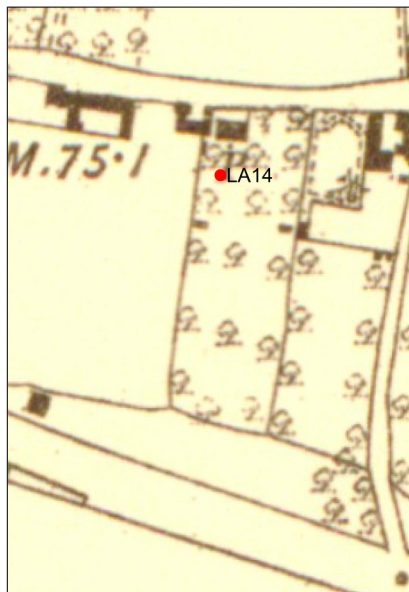
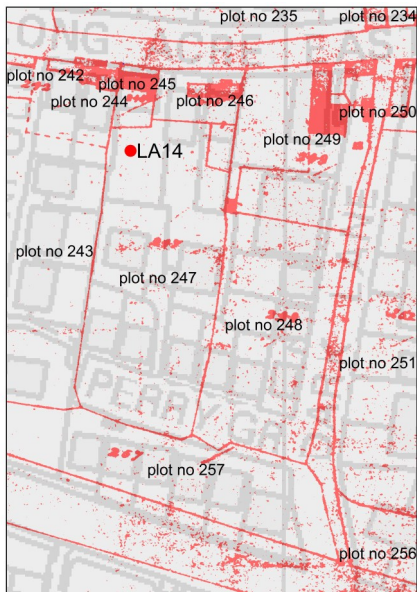
Plot 245 was the homestead of Robert Deuah (possibly the surveyor's mis-spelling of



Map for 1776. Plot 246 is where the current house, 8 Long Acre East is situated.

Map for 1835

Background topography OS Licence No 0100031673



Tithe map for 1841

O.S. Map for 1883

O.S. Map for 1915

OS Licence No 0100031673

Deuchar) and Plot 246 [eventually the plot occupied by Boscobel House, number 8 Long Acre East] was the homestead of John Stokes. Neither had any other land holding nor do they appear in the trade's directory. Only John Stokes appears in the parish registers, as a labourer.

1835

Sanderson's map of 1835 shows an unchanged set of plot boundaries, although only one of the

Deuah/Stokes houses seems to have survived.

1841

Boundaries were unchanged from 1835. Plot 245, was occupied by John Ward and plot 246 by William Jackson; both were described as house and garden. However, Jackson also had plot 247 which was an orchard and remained as such for the best part of 100 years.

Plot 245 is now occupied by Boscobel House, originally a pair of probably later Victorian semi-detached cottages that were tied to Starnhill Farm. John Ward had married Millicent Salt in 1805. In 1813 the record of the birth of their daughter Jane shows him as a soldier; this was the time of the Napoleonic wars. Various later entries in the parish registers show him successively as a framework knitter, groom and ostler. The census of 1841 shows Ward was a licensed hawker (i.e. travelling salesman) with a wife and three daughters. His son George was in service at the Rectory.

William Jackson was a carrier, noted in the trade's directories as "to Newark, Wednesdays". He was also recorded as a cottager.

1883

By 1883 the Jackson house had gone and a single plot had replaced the previous arrangement. There was a house (probably semi-detached) in the north-west corner (today's Boscobel House) and the rest was orchard. By 1901 (and repeated in 1915) there were two plots, the southern one being an orchard. The present southern boundary of the garden of Boscobel House matches the boundary of the northern plot in 1901.

LA14

LOCATION AND PROTOCOL

NGR	470948.339723
Height OD (mid point rim of N face)	22.838 m [error 0.026]
Dig dates	6 th -7 th June 2012
Pit site	Lawn in back garden. Old fruit trees nearby.
Pit protocol	1-metre pit, 10 cm spits; each spit sieved. 43 cm wide sondage dug along the northern side from 60 cm to 79 cm. Pit orientated N-S. North face sections only described and measured unless otherwise stated. Photographs taken facing north unless otherwise stated.

LA14

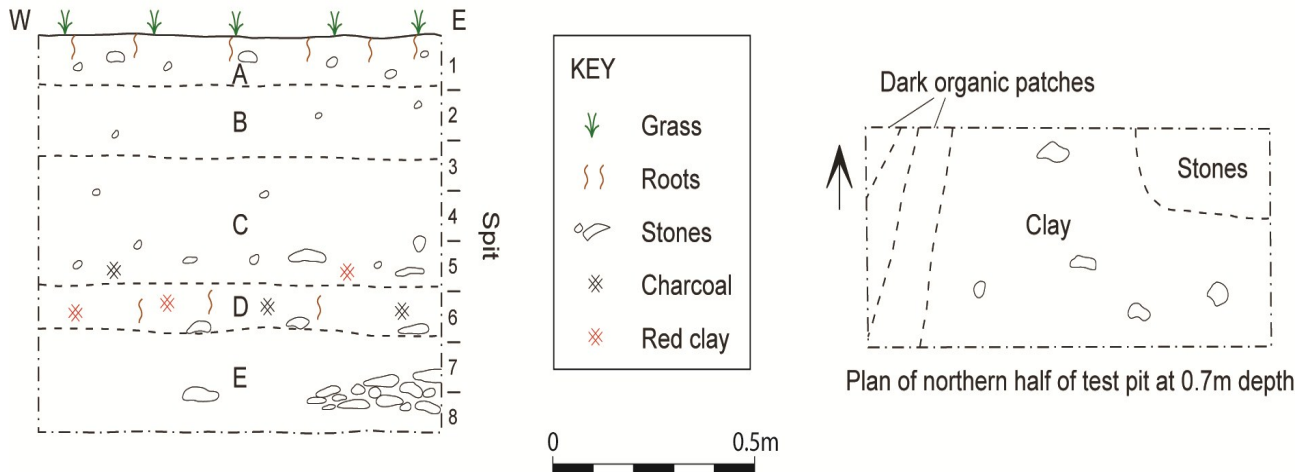
ANALYSIS OF RESULTS

Description of pit

There were several odd features in this pit that hinted at it being where there had been a tree at some time in the distant past.

- Topsoil to c25 cm depth
- Subsoil to 50 cm depth
- Basal Clay

LA14



- A* Turf and topsoil of dark brown loam with stones to 30 mm
- B* Topsoil of dark brown-black loam with irregular base.
- C* Subsoil of brown-grey silty loam with worm tubes, sparse stones to 40 cm depth. Stones, clay, charcoal common below.
- D* Mixed zone of dark brown silty loam with stones, red clay lumps, nodules of dark red sand, charcoal, rootlets, worm tubes. Layer of stones at base.
- E* Red-brown gritty clay with lens of stones in it. Black organic patches.



IMG_1450 At 30 cm depth, note dark runs in subsoil possibly of rotted roots.



IMG_1451 At 60 cm. Dark patch thought to be the shadow of a root excavated in SE corner



IMG_1452 Close up of dark patch at 60 cm.



IMG_1454 Facing N. at 70 cm in the upper levels of the basal clay unit. Dark patches in SE and NW corners



IMG_1455 At 75 cm. Stone layer in NE removed. Dark patch in NW remains.



IMG_1456 North face showing organic topsoil, the subsoil, an accumulation of stones in the NE corner and the basal clay beneath.

The topsoil consists of an upper layer about 10 cm thick of turf on dark brown loam with some pebbles up to 30mm long. This passes down into dark brown-black loam with fewer pebbles.

The upper surface of the subsoil is irregular where it passes into the topsoil. It is brown-grey silty loam with worm tubes, stones to 40 mm, charcoal and dark organic runs that may be rotted roots or animal burrows.

At around 50 depth there is a change to a dark brown gritty loam with stones, red clay lumps, nodules of dark red sand, charcoal, rootlets and worm tubes. There is a layer of sub-angular, spaced stones at about 60 cm. This upper 10 cm seems to be a weathered top to the underlying clay. The clay is red-brown and gritty and there is a small accumulation of stones in the north west corner. Dark patches and broad strips suggest rotted roots close to a tree stump. While these two layers were recognised as two contexts in the field it is possible that they are part of the same basal clay unit but have been very much disturbed by tree roots, now rotted to an organic shadow. The clay is probably a till.

Finds

Building materials, miscellaneous items, metallic pieces, glass and clay pipes area all confined to

the top 30 cm, which are the topsoil and the upper levels of the subsoil. Among the pottery only the Unglazed Red Earthenware and the solitary Saxo-Norman sherd were found in the top 30 cm.

The building material consisted only of 5 items. These were bricks, a modern floor tile and a pan-tile.

The miscellaneous items were carbon rods and a half of a stone castor wheel. The housing for the wheel, much corroded, is logged with the metal items.

The metal items include several pieces of brass. These are a button, a stud, a curtain ring, a cartridge case and a ring of unknown use. In addition there were about 30 rusty iron nails.

The small number of pieces of glass include flat, clear window glass from 1/16th, 1/8th and 1/4 inch thick. Bottle glass includes thick clear, embossed aqua, fine pale blue and flat-sided aqua. Some very thin pieces of clear glass may be from wine glasses. All of this glass could be late 19th and 20th C.

The clay pipes were in the lower part of the topsoil. There were only four items. Two were stems from the period 1750-1900; one of which was a tapering piece probably from very near the mouth-piece. The other two were bowl fragments, each of which could be dated. One, with a mulberry design that is not very common, dates to 1650-1670. The other was marked TC for Thomas Crewe and was made in Nottingham in 1716-1720. The pottery found confined at this level included 6 sherds of Unglazed Red Earthenware. This is usually from plant pots. There was also the only sherd of Stamford Ware B, dated 1050-1200.

Most of the other finds were present from the topsoil down to 50 cm depth with no obvious stratigraphical order being evident.

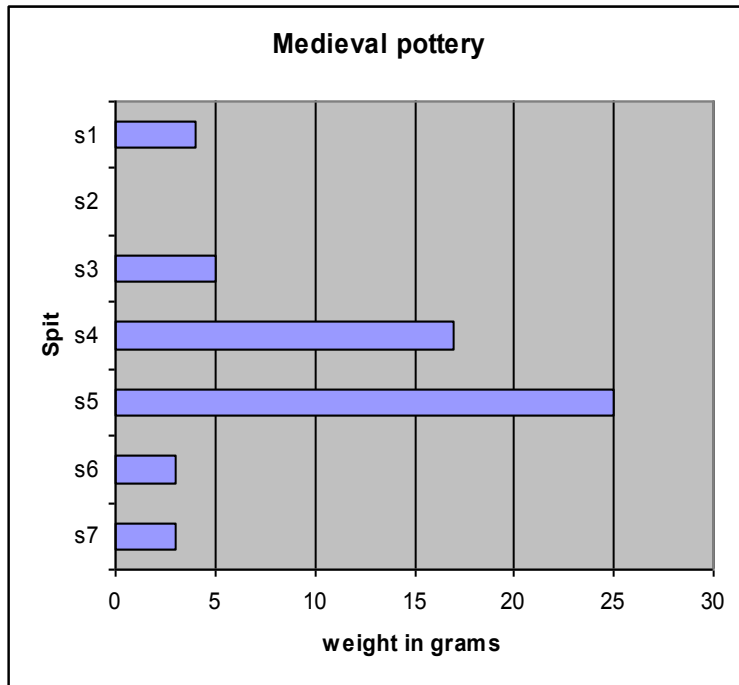
Five bones and teeth were collected. They were the bones of a small mammal and sheep teeth and bones. No signs of butchery were noted on the bones. The small mammal was unidentified. A sheep rib was encountered in spit 7. This is just below the mixed, weathered top to the basal clay.

A lot of small pieces of coal were found in the topsoil and again between 40 and 50 cm, just above the weathered top to the basal clay.

20 sherds of modern pottery were collected. They included white ware and blue and white transfer-printed pottery that could not be dated better than 19th or 20th C. Some patterned pottery, including a white saucer with coloured flowers was clearly 20th C. Other sherds were cane-coloured and brown glazed and also 19th-20th C.

Stoneware was restricted to the depth 10 to 50 cm. There were four sherds, two Nottingham-made dated 1720-1790 and two Derbyshire-made dated 1840-1950 including a bottle. The other sherds could not be attributed to any form.

Coarse earthenware (11 sherds) was found down to 40 cm. Six of them were Red-bodied Black Glazed Coarse Earthenware, all body sherds and with no identifiable form. Usually this fabric was found on pancheons and jars. One sherd of Vitrified Black-glazed Coarse Earthenware had, in fact, a dark brown glaze on an olive body. This is typical of butterpots found in this region. Four sherds of Brown-glazed Coarse Earthenware appeared to fit together. They were from a pancheon; the fabric was fine, sandy red body with a purple-brown slip on the outside and a black glaze. The date range for coarse earthenware is not fully understood, but elsewhere in Bingham red-bodied coarse earthenware like this is usually 19th C.



The post-medieval pottery, also found down to 50 cm consists of only two fabrics. Most of it is Midland Yellow Ware ((1550-1700) while two sherds were of Midland Black Ware (1575-1725). The Midland Yellow Ware sherds were typically eroded, but one retained its typical chalky body. There were cup fragments in both fabric types.

Medieval finds were most numerous. Five fabric types were represented down to a depth of 70 cm. A sherd of an eroded unknown fabric was found in the topsoil, but all the rest were found in the subsoil and upper part of the basal clay. They included four sherds of

Nottingham Splashed Ware. This was a slowly evolving fabric type with definite characteristics for each period. Three of them dated 1140-1180; one was later (1190-1250). One of the early ones is from a bowl and was found between 60 and 70 cm depth. Two sherds were undiagnosed Medieval Ware, but they were almost certainly not made in Nottingham and were most likely to be very early in date. The other sherds were Nottingham Coarse Pink/orange Sandy Ware (1230-1280) from a cooking pot, Nottingham Green Glaze (1250-1350) and Nottingham Light-bodied Green Glaze (1250-1325), both from jugs, one a rim piece. None of these fabric types are found after the mid 14th C Black Death. The maximum concentration of sherds was between 30 and 50 cm depth, that is the lower part of the subsoil.

A single sherd of Stamford Ware A dated 900-1030 was found between 30 and 40 cm depth.

The only Roman sherd found between 50 and 60 cm depth was an oxidised fragment with holes made by eroded shells. It may not have been a shelly ware. No age has been attributed to it.

Interpretation

The most striking thing about this pit is the amount of disturbance there must have been from large roots of a now long-vanished tree. The organic shadows were found at several levels and some of the stone accumulations could be explained by the action by root systems in large trees.

The soil profile is probably natural and there is a crude stratigraphy in that many obvious modern items are confined to the top 30 cm. The clay pipes were found in the bottom of the topsoil and gave an interesting insight into the dates of the content. Two bowl fragments were 1650-1670 and 1716-1720. These, along with the Saxo-Norman ware from the same level are no more than a reflection of the normal content of the topsoil hereabouts and give no information about what was actually happening at this site in those early periods.

Apart from a Roman sherd and one sherd of Nottingham Splashed Ware all the other pottery was found in the topsoil and subsoil down to 50 cm; that is above the weathered, mixed zone at the top of the basal clay.

The mixing of the pottery of different ages in the top 50 cm suggests, as elsewhere in Bingham, that the ground has been turned over during cultivation. While the land must have been ploughed

during the medieval period the absence of any medieval pottery dated later than the Black Death of 1348-49 and before the late 16th C Midland Yellow Ware suggests that the land was probably left to pasture after the mid 14th C until possibly the 17th C, but may have been ploughed after that. The absence of late 14th C pottery is typical of many parts of Bingham, reflecting on the devastating impact of the Black Death here. While there is more medieval pottery here than any other fabric type the several fabric types that do occur span 250 years. This suggests that the pottery came here with farmyard manure rather than being from a rubbish pit close to a house.

The most disturbed layer is the upper part of the basal clay between 50 and 60 cm depth. Here loam is mixed with clay suggesting that it must have once been a soil, most probably during the 12th C. There is a bone fragment and sherds of Roman pot and Nottingham Splashed Ware in it and in the clay just below the weathered top. The organic shadows of roots suggest that there may have been a tree here in medieval times.