

LA28

ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT ON

52, LONG ACRE

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52, LONG ACRE

SITE HISTORY

Number 52 Long Acre is a relatively modern house set back about 12 metres from Long Acre. The pit was dug near the front garden wall. The site has seen residential occupation since the 1500s.

1586

In 1586 a survey was made of the Bingham estate prior to its sale by the then lord of the manor, Bryan Stapleton.



The conjectural map of 1586.



The map for 1776

Bryan Stapleton.

In the 1500s Long Acre was named Husband Street, i.e. the street of the farmers. Most of the plots on the south side of Long Acre stretched south to The Banks (then called “The Waste” and were described as messuages occupied by tenant farmers, all of whom had their farm house and home-stead on their plot. They all rented strips from

the lord of the manor in the open fields.

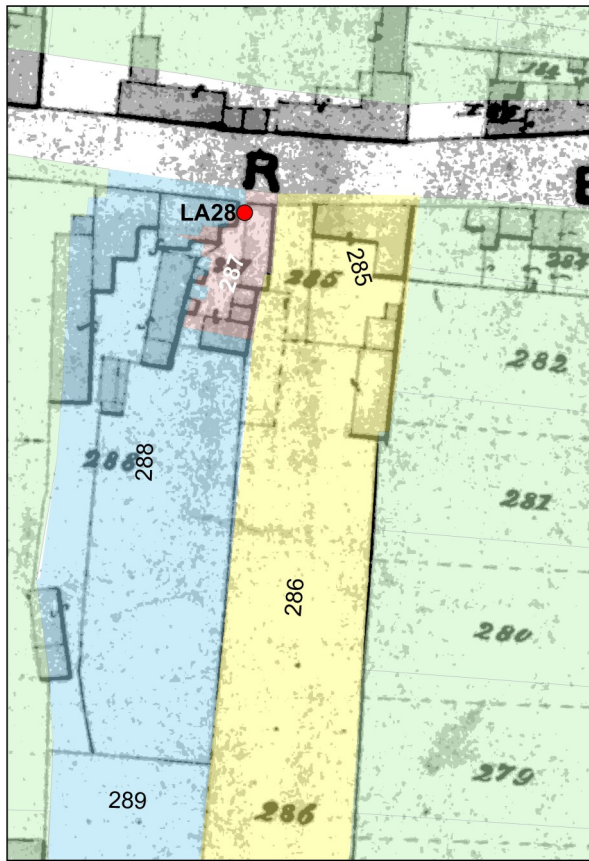
In 1586 the plot on which we dug pit LA28 was tenanted by Richard Maplethorp who held 55 acres of strips, each about a quarter of an acre, spread around the four open fields of the parish. His holding was described in the estate survey as “A messuage and 4 bovates of land, barn, yard and croft”.

Thomas Selby’s plot next door on the east was unusual in that it was one of very few freehold plots not owned by the Stapleton estate.

The east and west boundaries of the plot have probably not changed since those days.

1776

In 1776 another survey was undertaken, on the occasion of the coming of age of the then Earl of Chesterfield whose family, the Stanhopes, had purchased the estate from Stapleton around 1590. The survey was published as a book, with each tenant having a page showing his holdings and a facing page of sketch plans showing the location of each, but not as a complete map.



The tithe map of 1841

Unsurprisingly the map of 1776 shows a similar configuration of plot boundaries. At this time the plot was in the occupation on of John Timm, senior. We know from newspapers of the time that he was landlord of the Marquis of Granby public house. He also ran a blacksmith's business here. Widow Hart's plot was freehold. She was presumably matriarch of the family that in the nineteenth century produced the parish clerk, various saddlers, blacksmiths and wheelwrights.

1841

The first full large-scale map of Bingham was produced for the tithe apportionment exercise which saw the payment of tithes changed from payment in kind to payment in cash. The apportionment tables listed every plot on the map and showed both owner (in the majority of cases the Earl of Chesterfield), the primary occupier, area and the rate to be paid.

Plot 288/9 consisting of a house and homestead owned by the Earl of Chesterfield was occupied by John Tinkler, shown in the trade directory to be the innkeeper of the Marquis of Granby.

285/6 was a house and homestead owned and occupied by William Hutchinson, who was now living on his own means (i.e. retired) but had farmed Starnhill. His son was the local veterinary surgeon.

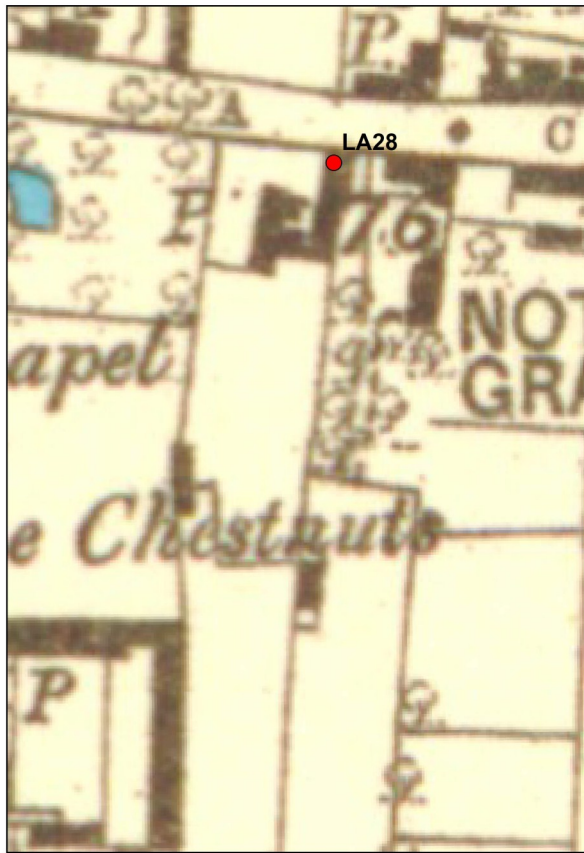
Adjacent to these two, plot 287 was a tenement owned by Samuel Brewster and occupied by Elizabeth Becket and four others. From their sequential positions in the 1841 census return (between Tinkler and Hutchinson) it would seem that at the time of the census the occupants were as follows (Elizabeth Becket was not listed on the census):

TMapLoc	Surname	Christian Name	Occupation
287	Nowell	Martha	Washerwoman
287	Nowell	Phoebe	Dressmaker
287	Sharpe	Ann	F.S.
287	Sentence	John	Cooper

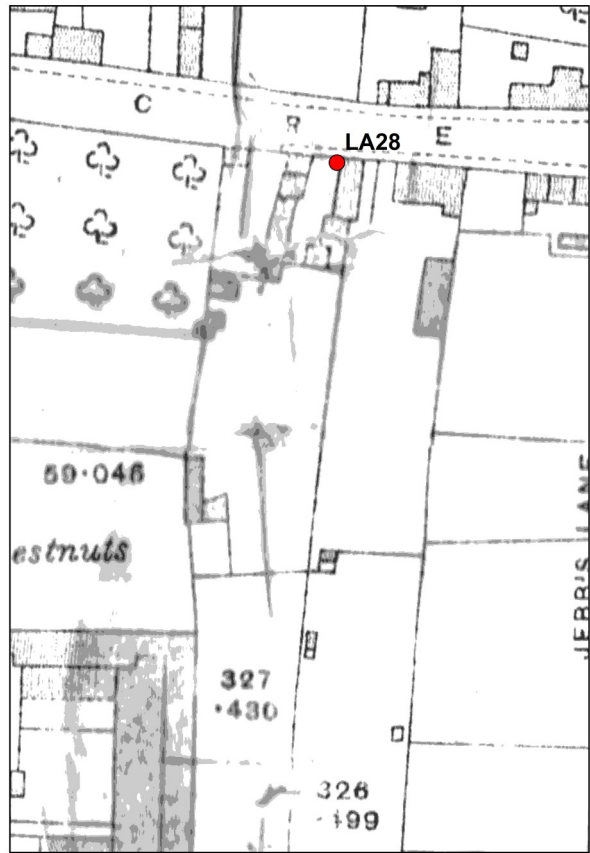
1883 and 1910

The configuration of buildings seems to have changed between 1883 and 1910 and the plot is narrower. We are unsure of the significance of this. 1910 OS map shows most plot boundaries to have been substantially unchanged for hundreds of years. The two rows of buildings facing each other may have been two sets of tenements or, perhaps more likely, one set of tenements and one set of outhouse (privies and wash houses perhaps).

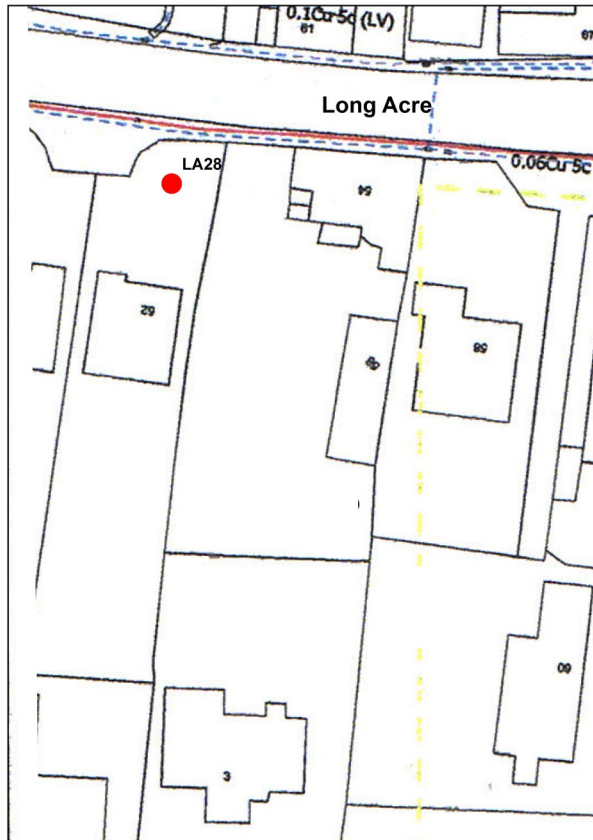
The most likely candidate for occupying the house according to the census of 1911, being next door to the Shaws at Eskdale, is James Gill, a grocery warehouse man, and his family of wife, son



The OS map for 1883



The OS map for 1910

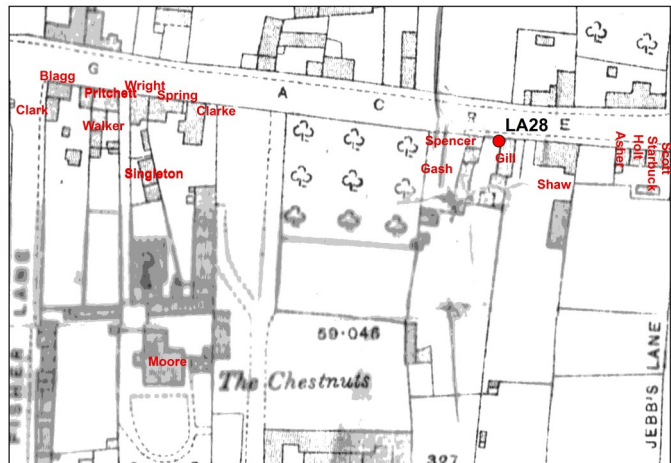


The modern map with permission of Western Power.

and two daughters.

Modern times

All the buildings shown on the 1910 map were demolished to make way for a row of new houses during post-war re development.



The 1911 census map.

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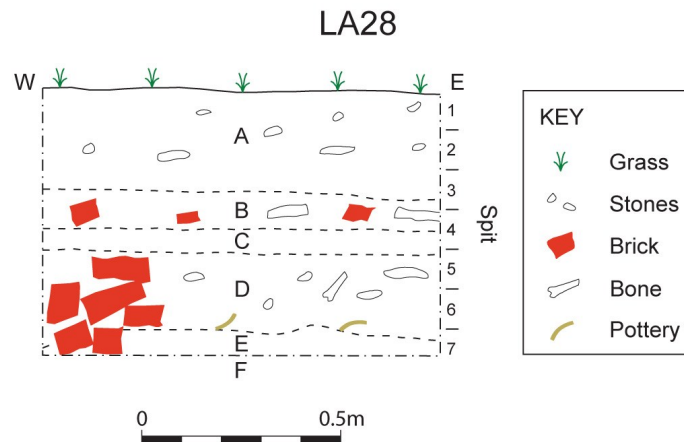
LOCATION AND PROTOCOL

NGR	470618.339800
Height OD	23m (from map)
Address	52, Long Acre
Dig dates	5 th - 6 th July 2016
Pit site	Front lawn of bungalow on south side of Long Acre.
Pit protocol	1-metre pit, N-S orientated, 10 cm spits, everything sieved. A spade-width sondage was dug in the bottom to test the downward persistence of the basal clay.



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ANALYSIS OF RESULTS



- A Dark brown soil with rounded stones up to 3 cm and flat skerry up to 8 x 2.5 cm. Patches of builder's sand; one lens at 25 cm depth. Cherry tree roots.
- B Dark brown soil with brick pieces and large stones.
- C Builder's sand, beige.
- D Dark brown sandy soil with bricks, including 3 inch Victorian, pebbles and cobbles, butchered bone. A pile of bricks and stones in the NW corner spans the whole thickness of this context. Large pieces black glazed chamber pot at 60 cm depth set in soil resting on the weathered top.
- E Variable thickness of orange-brown clay with carbonised rootlets and pebbles mixed with soil. Top drops to 66 cm depth on the western side. Weathered top of the underlying clay.
- F Orange-brown clay with carbonised rootlets, some pebbles 1-2 cm and a few at 3-4cm. No dark soil here, but appears still to be weathered top. Dug to 80 cm and did not pass through the weathered zone, but texture suggests it is Triassic mudstone.

Description of pit

The top 25 cm are dark brown topsoil with stones, probably laid here during landscaping after the bungalow was built. At the bottom of this layer are lenses of builders' sand but these are on a complex inter-layering of dark brown soil with large brick pieces and stones. A thin layer of builders' sand bottoms at 40 cm. It seems that the whole of this part of the section is disturbed.

Between 40 and 60 cm is dark brown sandy soil, with rather more sand in the top 10 cm than below. It is stacked up against a pile of bricks and stones on the western side of the pit and cannot be in its original place. The brick pile was not bottomed, but appeared to be in a pit dug into the basal clay.

The basal clay beneath 60 cm is orange-brown clay with rootlets and pebbles mixed with organic soil. This seems to be the weathered top to the basal Triassic shale. No soil was found mixed with it below 65 cm, but in a spade-depth sondage dug to get to the bottom of the weathered zone it was not reached and the un-weathered shale was not seen.

Finds

Building materials consist of brick pieces, red clay roof and floor tile, slate, plaster, concrete, mortar, modern drain and ceramic tile. Two thirds of them occur above the sand layer at 40 cm depth. However, the pile of bricks found beneath the sand layer extends down to the bottom of the pit. Among them are mainly 2.5 inch, 2.875 inch and 30-inch bricks, all likely to be Victorian, but among them is an older 2-inch brick. The ceramic tiles are blue, white and patterned green and white pieces, all 20th C. Among the building material from below the sand layer are brick pieces,



Pit at 60 cm depth



Close up of Coarse Black Ware chamber pot sherds found at 60 cm depth.



The finished pit at 65 cm depth



The north wall of the finished pit showing the sand layer at 40 cm and the pile of bricks below it that extends to the bottom of the pit.

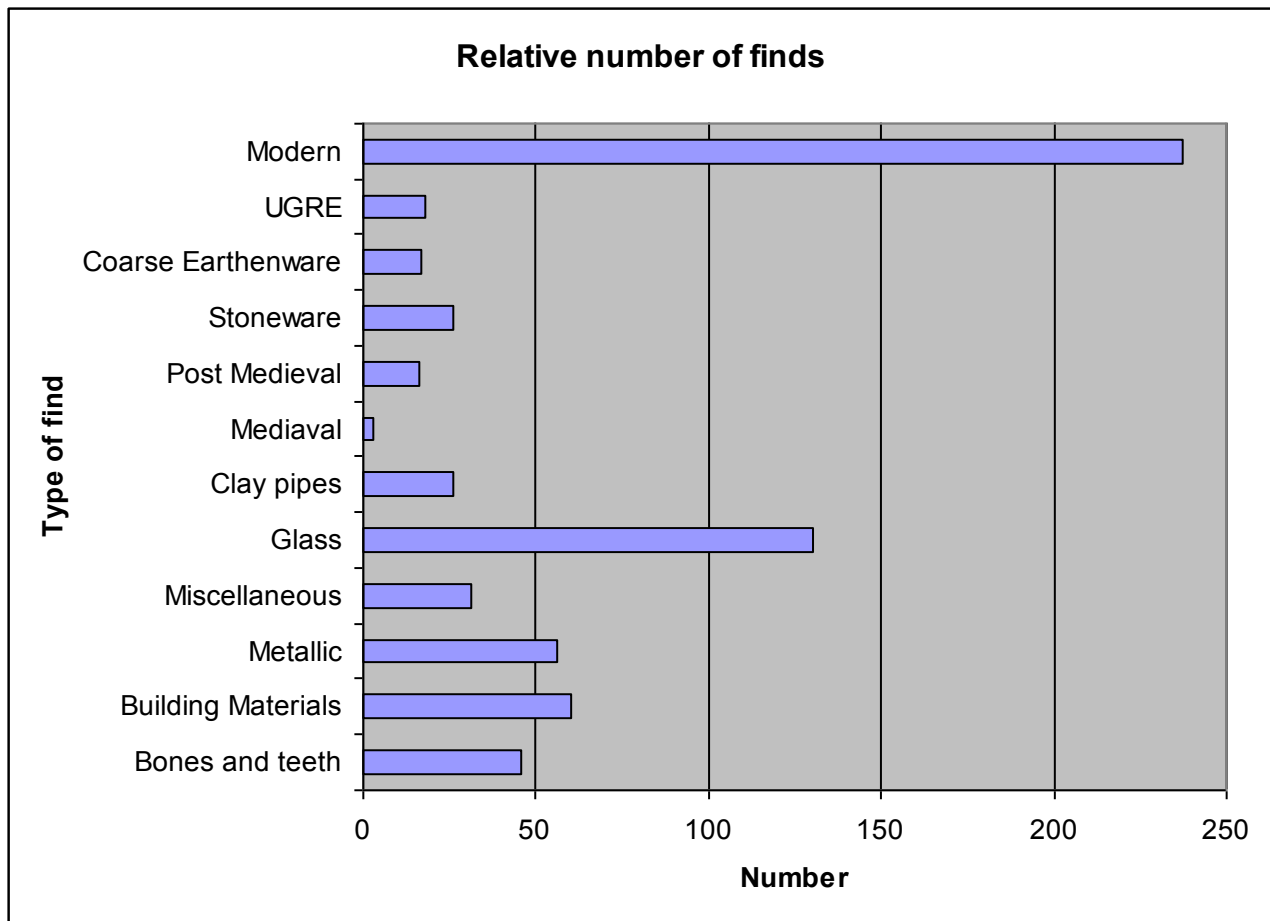
roof tile, floor tile and plaster and they occur right to the bottom of the pit.

Bones and teeth are present at all depths with more than half from below the sand layer.

Metallic objects also occur at all depths, but there is a distinction in the kind of find above and below the sand. Above the sand they are mostly nails and screws, with one clockwork key. Below it there are nails, but there is a lot of window lead, a small brass hook and a broken file.

Among the **Miscellaneous** items the pieces of leather were found in the top 30 cm associated with an array of other items above the sand layer: a piece of tarmac, pieces of gypsum, a toy lead horse and rider, plastic, part of a battery, lots of buttons including an early 20th C military button, beads, glass marbles, clay balls. Below the sand layer is a thimble, a ceramic doll's leg, a button and, at the bottom of the pit two oyster shells. Pieces of coal were recovered from beneath the sand layer.

Glass was more abundant than anything else except Modern pottery. About half of it was in the 25 cm below the sand layer. While clear glass was found at all depths embossed bottle glass, which dates no earlier than the start of the 20th century, was recovered only above the sand layer.



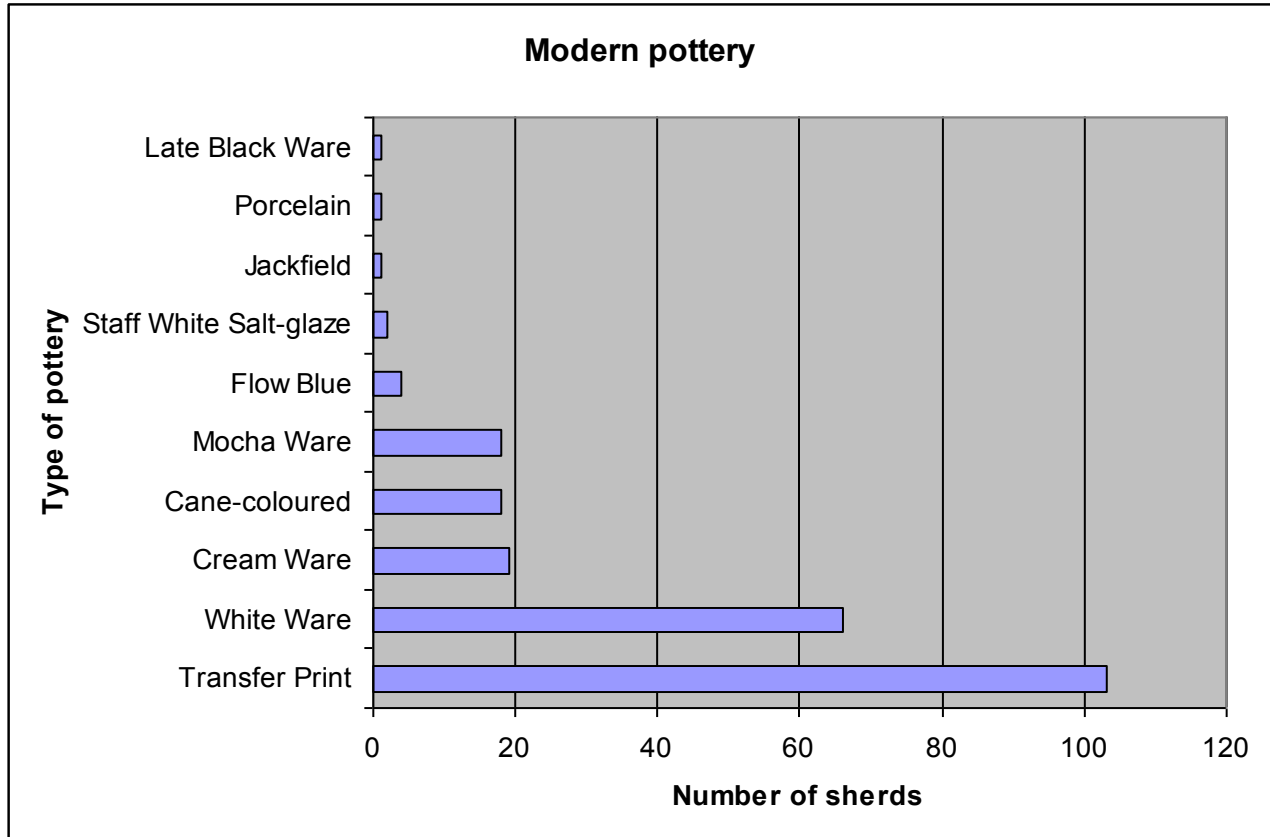
Bottle fragments predominated. Two thirds of the clear glass was from bottles, some of which were flat sided, others screw topped; and nearly all the green glass. Relatively little of the glass had a patina from chemical reaction with the soil. Most of the aqua glass was either 1/16th or 3/32nd inch thick window glass. 1/8th inch glass was uncommon at any depth. Besides these three colours everything else was minor, but included blue poison bottle glass, tumbler and wine glass fragments, frosted cup handles, turquoise decorative glass. Ribbed bathroom window glass, glass buttons and some small molten globs. There was only one piece of brown bottle glass.

60% of the **clay pipe** fragments were late 18th to 19th C, including some very thin stem pieces. The rest were thick stem fragments typical of 17th to early 18th C clay pipes. Both ages of pipe were found at all depths; one 19th C pipe was recovered from the very bottom of the pit. Most fragments were stems; three were bowl fragments and there was one whole bowl. The whole bowl was plain and unmarked and could be dated 1700—1730. The two fragments were later; one piece had a floral decoration and was dated 1850-1870. the other had a spurred base and a pair of leaves along the seam. It was dated 1830-1860.

Pottery sherds were numerically far more common than anything else with **Modern** the dominant class. 70% of the finds were collected from beneath the sand layer. Transfer printed wares were the most common and 75% of these were recovered from below the sand layer. Designs in blue and white or pale blue and white made up 85% of the fragments. Where they could be identified they came from plates, cups, mugs, bowls and a jug. One plate had part of a trade mark saying ... and... If this were part of the word England it would place this pot as having been made after 1891. It was found in the upper 10 cm. Some sherds were demonstrably printed on White Ware making them mid to late 19th C. Besides the blue and white ware types there were a small number of brown, green, lilac, red and pink, all of which did not come into production until after 1828.

There were 4 Flow Blue fragments, which were very popular in the period 1840 to 1860, though they continued to be made until the end of the 19th C.

White Ware was next in abundance. Identifiable forms include plates, cups, jugs, saucers and a bowl. Three pieces were from a doll's house or children's play ware. Many of the sherds were hand painted on white ware. Commonly there were thin gold and brown lines near the edge of plates. Blue and white bands common on jugs were seen, hand painted flowers, embossed patterns



brought out in blue and there were pieces that were uniform, flat blue.

Cream Ware, which has a date range 1740 to c1850 was relatively uncommon (8%). Plates and a small number of bowl fragments were identified. Most had a creamy glaze on a cream body, but there were some with hand painted designs in blue. One piece had the mark of Wedgwood and dates from 1770 to 1780.

Cane-coloured Ware and Mocha Ware make up about 16% of the total. Most of the Cane-coloured Ware is coarse ware, often with a white glaze inside and an embossed design on the outside and can be attributable to large bowls and jars. Fragments from a teapot and a colander were recognised. However, as always with cane-coloured wares some of the pieces might be Mocha Ware, which in the absence of the characteristic design pattern cannot be distinguished from it. Most of the Mocha Ware had coloured bands on cane, with some showing the typical fern design on a white background forming a panel bounded by dark brown or blue edging. Nearly all the sherds were from jugs.

The remaining sherds were Jackfield Ware, porcelain and Staffordshire White Salt-glaze Ware. These are mainly 18th C, the last type having been made in great quantity in the period 1720 to 1780. The Late Black Ware, which is mainly a 19th pottery type had a well made red body, a shiny black external glaze and green glaze on the inside. It was often used for teapots, but this piece could not be attributed.

A number of **Unglazed Red Earthenware** sherds could all be attributed to plant pots, probably 19th-20th century. One grey piece, however, has the look of an early plant pot, possibly dating from 1750-1800.

A few sherds of **coarse earthenware** were found. They occurred at all depths. 65% of them were Red-bodied Black Glazed Coarse Earthenware mostly with a dark brown-black glaze. No rim pieces were found, but there was one base. However, the forms that were recognised included pancheon and jars. Three of the varieties were pink bodied, one from a pancheon. There was one brown glazed sherd with a shiny brown glaze on a red body. Two of the sherds were Vitrified Coarse Earthenware, both from jars or butter pots. The date range for these pots is c1675 to later than 1900. The red-bodied varieties tend to be later in this period with the pink bodied and vitrified earlier.

The **stoneware** ranged in date from early 18th to 20th centuries. While there were five fragments clearly 20th century, many of them had a long date ranges. The oldest pieces with orange fabric and one reeded cylindrical mug piece can be dated 1700 to 1720, and are near the bottom of the pit. About half of the rest are 18th century, the other half span 1750 to 1850 or are 19th century. These are well mixed in the soil and not stratigraphically arranged., except for the presence of all the oldest proved pieces in the lowest 10 cm of the pit.

Post-medieval pottery was found throughout the full depth range. Among the varieties found were Midland Black Ware (1575-1725), Coarse Black Ware (1550-1800), Slipware including Black Slipware(1675-1750) and Mottled Ware (1675-1750). The Coarse Black Ware was all found near the bottom and the pieces are thought to be from a chamber pot. The Midland Black Ware has a red body and both a bowl and a mug were recognised forms. The lowest piece collected was Mottled Ware from the bottom of the pit.

Two sherds of **Medieval** pottery were found. A piece of Nottingham Splashed Ware (1170—1230) was recovered from the topsoil and a piece of Midland Purple Ware (1380-1600) was found at the bottom of the pit.

Interpretation

The weathered zone at the top of the basal Triassic clay is at least 20 cm thick. It is mixed with dark soil near the top and there are carbonised rootlets and small pebbles in it, suggesting it had been a soil. The upper boundary, however, is sharp, not gradational and there is nothing to suggest that the soil above the weathered zone is a subsoil derived from it *in situ*.

The sand layer at 40 cm divides the sequence seen in this pit into two. The soil above it was probably put here during landscaping after the construction of the bungalow in the 1960s.

Below the sand there is a wide mix to pottery types and other materials, which shows some differences from above the sand. This site is next door to a late 18th C pub (The Marquis of Granby) that was demolished probably in the late 19th C. A test pit dug there (LA04) had a similar range of pottery, though proportions were very different. The profile in LA04 was also less disturbed than in this pit. While some of the debris encountered in LA04 was consistent with rubbish originating in a pub there was proportionally much less than in this pit, particularly regarding the modern pottery. About 70% of the Modern pottery was recovered from below the sand layer and this included the two sherds of Staffordshire White Salt Glaze, which is clearly an 18th C ware type. Though this is not definitive it suggests that the Modern pottery here was also derived from the Marquis of Granby pub and that the pub rubbish dump was near by. The fact that the soil below the sand lay-

er has been disturbed and might not be in its original place is consistent with this plot having been separated from the pub in the early 19th C and redeveloped.

The only evidence of the earliest activity on this site is the Midland Purple Ware sherd, which has a date range 1380-1600.