

LA29

ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT ON

56A, LONG ACRE

CONTENTS

SITE HISTORY

LOCATION AND PROTOCOL

ANALYSIS OF RESULTS

 Description of pit

 Finds

 Interpretation

LA29

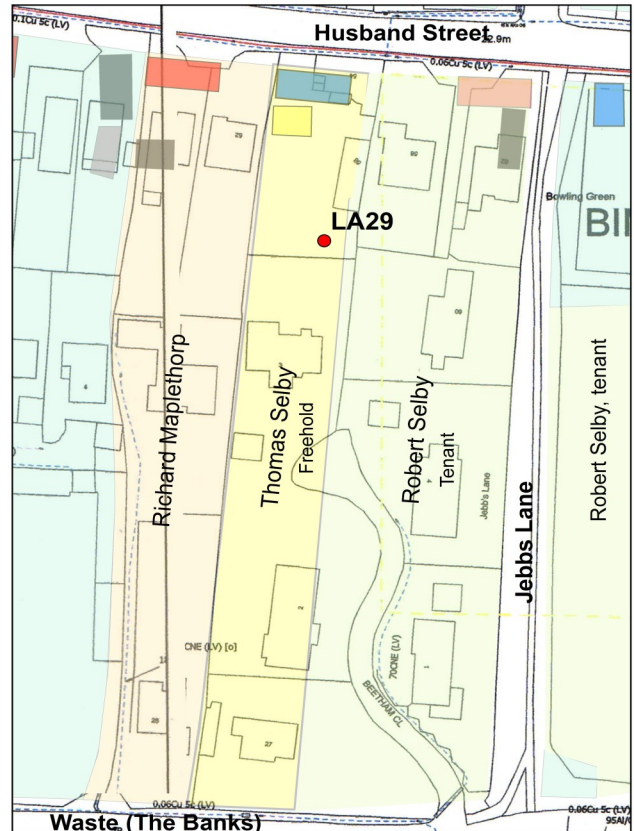
56A, LONG ACRE

SITE HISTORY

56A Long Acre used to be within the curtilage of number 56, Eskdale House. It served as the office and studio of the architect, Christopher Shaw, who lived there in the early 1900s. It became known as the coach house and was converted into a house when Eskdale House was divided into two residences in the 1980s. Christopher Shaw was born in Kendal and in 1911 the family lived in North Lancashire, which probably explains the house name.



Conjectural map of 1586 showing the location of test pit LA29.

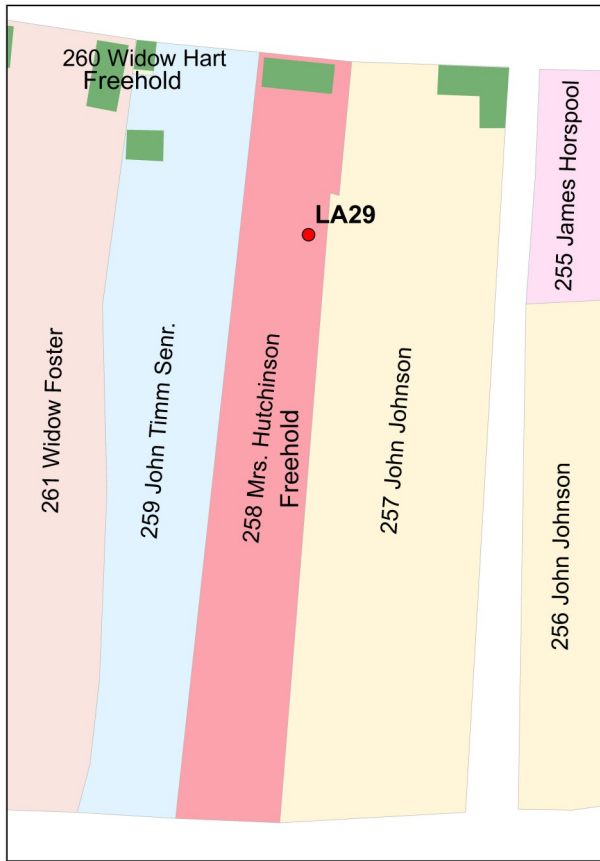


The map for 1586 with modern topography. Note how the modern property boundaries closely follows those of 1586.

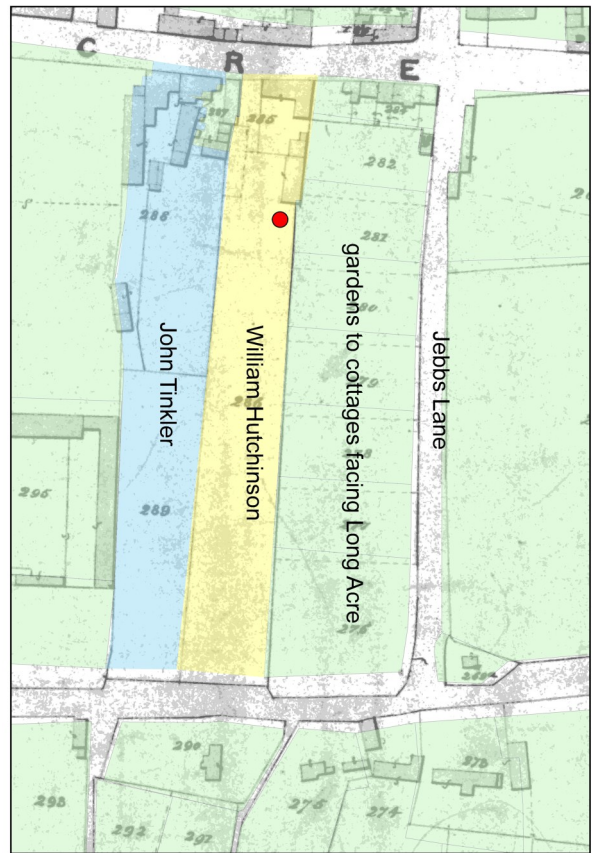
The plot has always been a freehold separate from the main Shelford Estate of the Earls of Chesterfield, who owned about 90% of Bingham.

1586

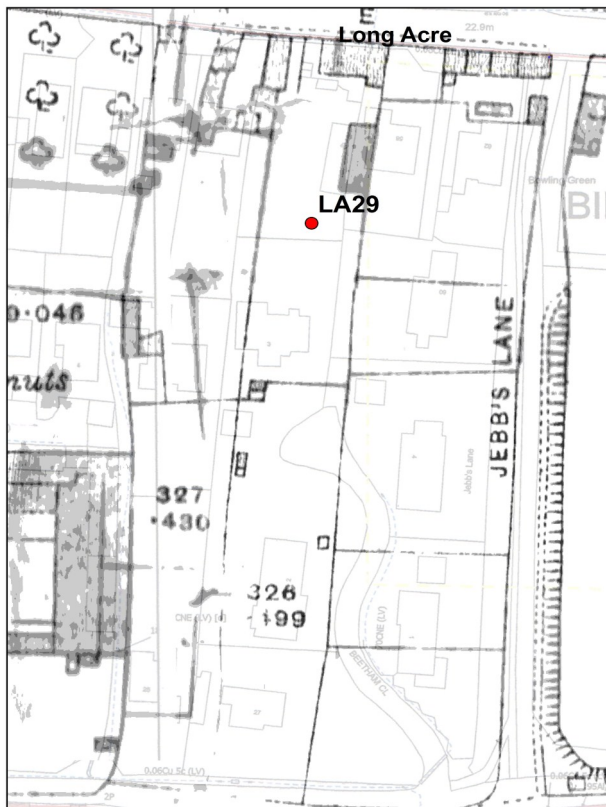
The 1586 map shows how the plot once extended southwards to The Banks, in common with most plots of land fronting onto Long Acre. The underlying modern map shows the new disposition. Thomas Selby, a surname that has survived in Bingham to today, held the freehold, with the following description of his land holdings in the estate survey of the time: 'a cottage with house and toft, a bovate of land and meadow'. He had 30 strips in the open fields (about 10 acres) and some closes.



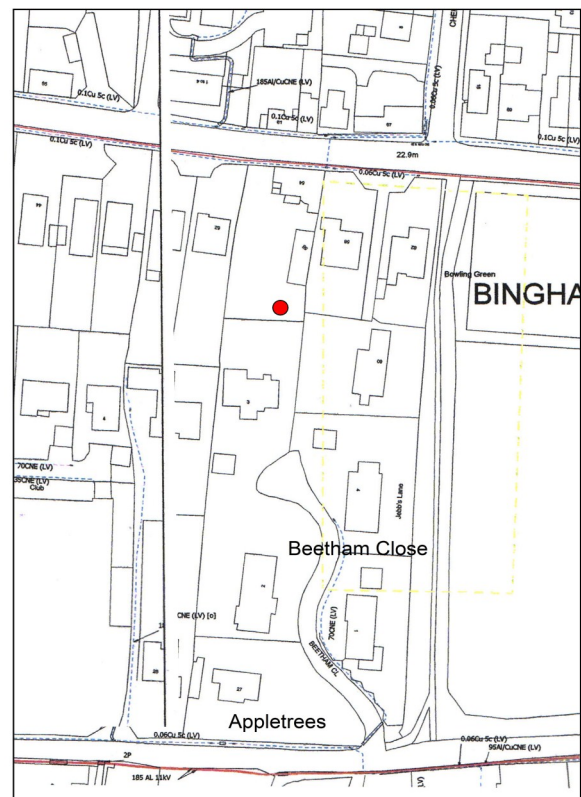
Location of test pit LA29 on the map of 1776. Note that the plots had not significantly changed since 1586



Tithe map of 1841. LA29 is shown by the red dot.



OS map for 1910.



Modern topography, by permission of Western Power

1776

In 1776 the freehold owner of the whole plot was listed as Mrs Hutchinson. In the 1793 trades directory a John Hutchinson was listed as a farmer. He was the tenant farmer for Starnhill Farm, and was probably Mrs Hutchinson's son. She probably had the equivalent of a dower-house here.

1841

By 1841 the plot was owned by William Hutchinson (of independent means) who lived there with his adult children Ebenezer and Jane. John Tinker, next door to the west, ran the Marquis of Granby inn. There is evidence of outbuildings, along the eastern boundary, which was probably the forerunner of the coach house.

1900 and following

The 1910 OS map shows the situation not to have changed. In 1925 John Beetham Shaw, the son of Christopher Shaw who owned the house in the early 1900s, built a new house, "Appletrees" in the southern part of the plot facing The Banks. In the early part of 2000 the Beetham Close development of bungalows was built.

LA29

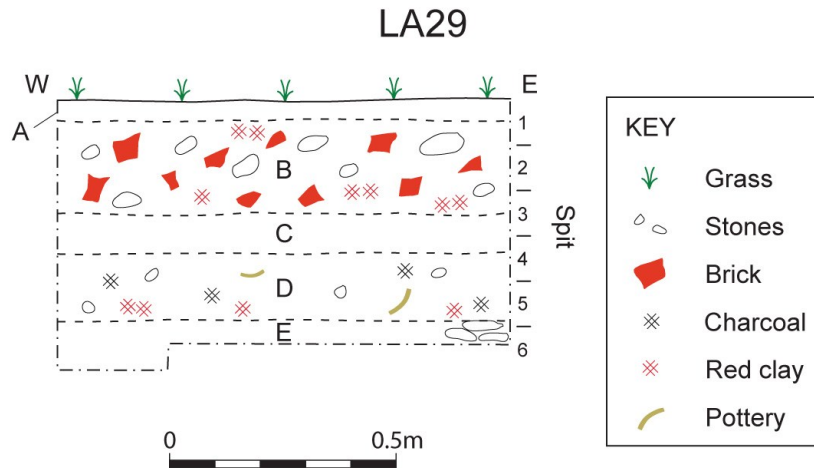
56A, LONG ACRE

LOCATION AND PROTOCOL

NGR	470634.339763
Height OD	25m (from map)
Address	56A, Long Acre,
Dig dates	18 th –19 th July 2016
Pit site	Pit in lawn at the bottom of the garden to the Coach House. It is elevated well above the ground level of the house. Large tree in SE corner.
Pit protocol	1-metre pit, N-S orientated, 10 cm spits, everything sieved. A small sondage dug from the base to test the basal clay.

LA29

ANALYSIS OF RESULTS



- A Turf on dark brown soil. No stones.
- B Rubble layer, reddish brown with clay lumps, stones to 8 cm, brick pieces, mortar, glass, pot. Small clay lumps along the base. Base is wavy.
- C Dark brown-black organic topsoil. Pile of skerry stones in the SE corner.
- D Reddish brown subsoil with a gradational top. Lumps red-brown clay to 4 cm, charcoal, small pebbles, pot.
- E Reddish brown Mercia Mudstone. Hard shale, crumbles into micro-blocks. Pile of skerry to 8 cm in the NW corner and along the south side.

Description of pit

The top 5 cm is dark brown soil under turf and was probably laid here when the garden was being set out. Underneath this is a rubble layer down to around 35 cm which probably relates either to the building of the Coach House or new building work when this complex was being converted.

The original soil level was encountered at c35 cm. At the top it was dark brown-black topsoil, but it passed downwards into reddish brown subsoil with lumps of red-brown clay, charcoal and stones. The bedrock of Mercia Mudstone shale was encountered at c60 cm. It is a hard shale but there is a small pile of stones at the top.

Finds

More pottery than any other class of find was collected, with glass next and building materials third.

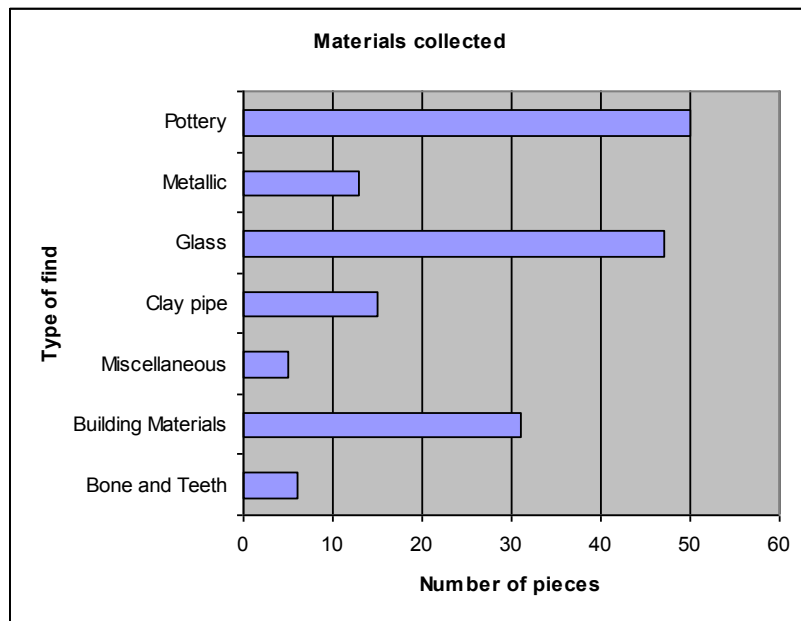
Building materials were found only in the top 40 cm, mostly in the rubble layer between 5 and 25 cm depth. A few pieces of brick and plaster were recovered from the underlying topsoil. Among them are brick pieces, concrete, mortar, plaster, roof tile and slate. Green paint was seen on one surface of a piece of plaster. Four pieces of a vesicular material, possibly breeze block, were also found.

There were very few examples of **bones and teeth**, but they were found at all depths.

47 pieces of **Glass** were found and they were collected only from the top 40 cm. 64% of the finds were clear glass, most of them bottles or drinking glasses. Among the bottles are angled, flat sides embossed, curved embossed, one with the numbers R2 35 and a milk bottle. This was embossed "Northern" (? Dairies) and with the word "Pasteurised".



North wall of the test pit showing the dark layer of the original topsoil at 35 cm depth. The small pit in the NW corner was dug to test the depth of the basal clay unit.



Bar chart showing the relative abundances of the main categories of finds recovered from the pit.

nothing older. The **Modern** pottery was all found above 35 cm; that is down to the topsoil beneath the rubble layer. Half the Modern pottery pieces were White Ware. All had a white glaze; the form of only one piece from a jar could be identified. Other sherds include brown and white Transfer Print from a plate, Flow Blue, Cream Ware, a cane-coloured earthenware bowl and a pale grey glazed earthenware. The Flow Blue and the Cream Ware may date from the middle of the 19th C, though they may not have been broken for several decades. Three pieces of **Unglazed Red Earthenware** are from plant pots, one a 30 cm diameter pot at the rim.

Coarse Earthenware included pink bodied, red bodied, brown glazed, light-bodied and vitrified types. One piece of pink-bodied coarse earthenware was a rim that could be identified as from a

Pasteurisation became widespread in the UK only after 1946 while Northern Dairies only came into existence in 1942. There was some window glass found, most of it 1/16th inch, one or two at 1/8th inch thick. Nearly all the green glass was from bottles. There was one aqua bottle. Several pieces had been molten, probably in a fire.

The **Metallic** objects, found down to 50 cm, were nails, either square head or round head. Other objects included a screw, a brass gate hook, a bolt and a large plug.

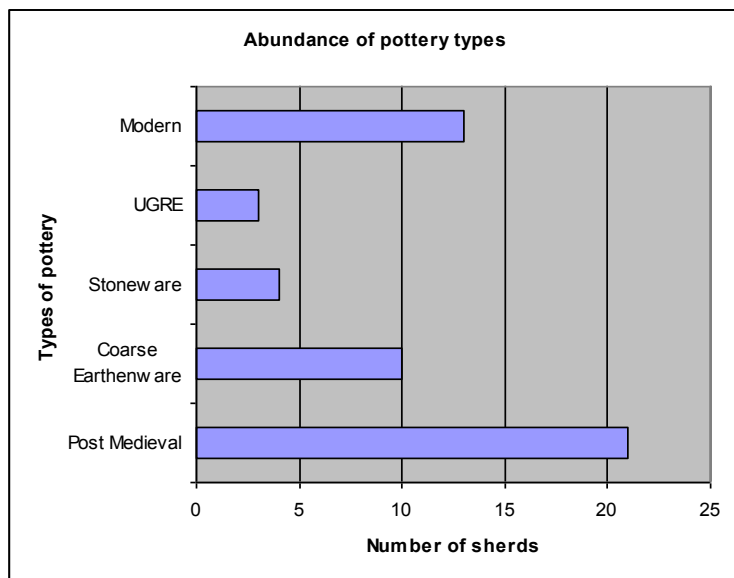
Miscellaneous items, all found above 40 cm depth, include cinder, a small glass bulb, a piece of gypsum, a clay ball and a smaller ball possibly of plaster with a muscovite flake in it. A piece of red, fine-grained sandstone that was found in the layer of rubble is a Triassic rock that is not local.

Three of the 15 fragments of **clay pipe** were lengths of stem from the 17 and early 18th C. The other stems were post 1750. They were found at all depths and there was nothing distinctive about them. Three fragments of bowls were examined : two were 17th to early 18th C; the third was more difficult to date and was likely to be 18th –19th C.

The pottery ranged in age from Post-medieval to Modern, with

pancheon; a vitrified sherd was from a jar or butter pot. These finds were collected from below 20 cm depth to the bottom of the pit.

There were only four pieces of **Stoneware**. The two from spit 2 were 19th C pieces; the two from spit 4 were older. One of these from the base of the spit had an orange fabric and was dated to 1700-1725. The other was a very small piece with a range 18th to mid 19th C.



Bar chart showing the relative abundance of the different types of pottery recovered from the test pit. (UGRE is Unglazed Red Earthenware).

Post-medieval pottery was the most abundant of all types and was found entirely under the layer of rubble and mostly in the subsoil. Of the types recovered most were Midland Black Ware (1575-1725) with a shiny black glaze and purple-grey body. Next came Midland Yellow Ware (1575-1700), one with a greenish glaze indicating it is over-fired. Thick sherds with a glaze only on the inside could be from pancheons. Sandy Coarse Earthenware (1500-1650), Slip-trailed Ware (1675-1750) and Mottled Ware (1675-1750) and a single piece of Coarse Black Ware (1550-1800) with a red body, made up the rest. None of these sherds could be attributed to a form.

Interpretation

The current topsoil and the rubble beneath it down to c 35 cm dates from the late 20th century when the Coach House was extended and modernised. Beneath it there is a natural profile from topsoil, down through the subsoil to the basal Triassic Mercia Mudstone.

The building material, glass, miscellaneous items and metallic objects were mostly found in the top 40 cm, in other words the present topsoil, rubble layer and the underlying topsoil which would have been disturbed during building. The modern pottery probably dated to no earlier than the mid 19th was also found at this level and indications are that the glass with it is mostly late 20th C.

Some of the coarse earthenware was found in the upper part of the sequence, but most of it and all the post-medieval pottery was found in the natural soil profile below 35 cm depth. The post-medieval pottery is most interesting in that it spans a period from the early 16th to mid 18th centuries and is more or less stratigraphically arranged. This covers the period when it is known that this area was inhabited. The absence of any medieval pottery is probably significant.