

LA30

ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT ON

40, LONG ACRE

CONTENTS

SITE HISTORY
LOCATION AND PROTOCOL
ANALYSIS OF RESULTS
 Description of pit
 Finds
 Interpretation

LA 30

40, LONG ACRE

SITE HISTORY

The facade of Number 40 Long Acre has a significant proportion of narrow bricks suggesting a build date in the mid-18th century. There are patches of more modern brickwork which could be infilled large windows, suggestive of prior use as a shop or workshop.

1586

In 1586 the name Husband Street meant the “Street of Farmers”, as the majority of holdings were

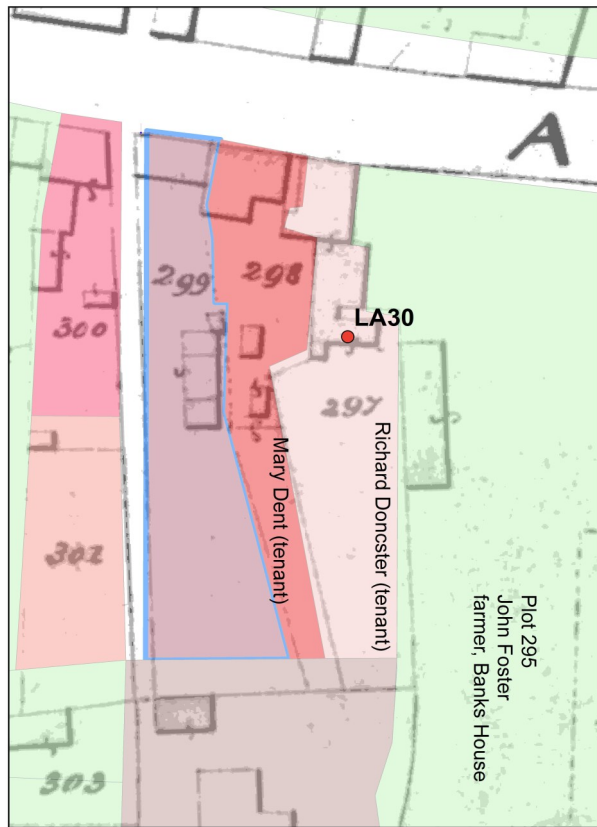


The conjectural map for 1586 showing the location of LA30.

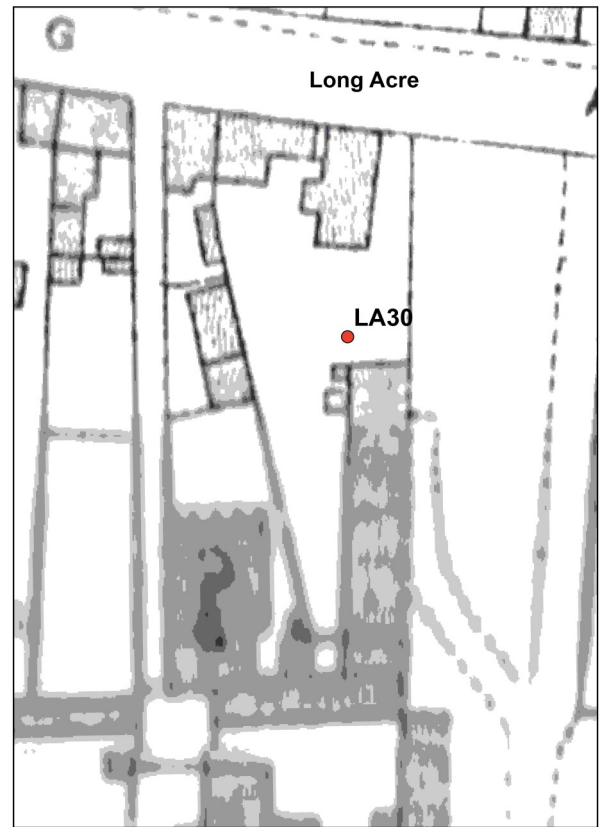


The map for 1776.

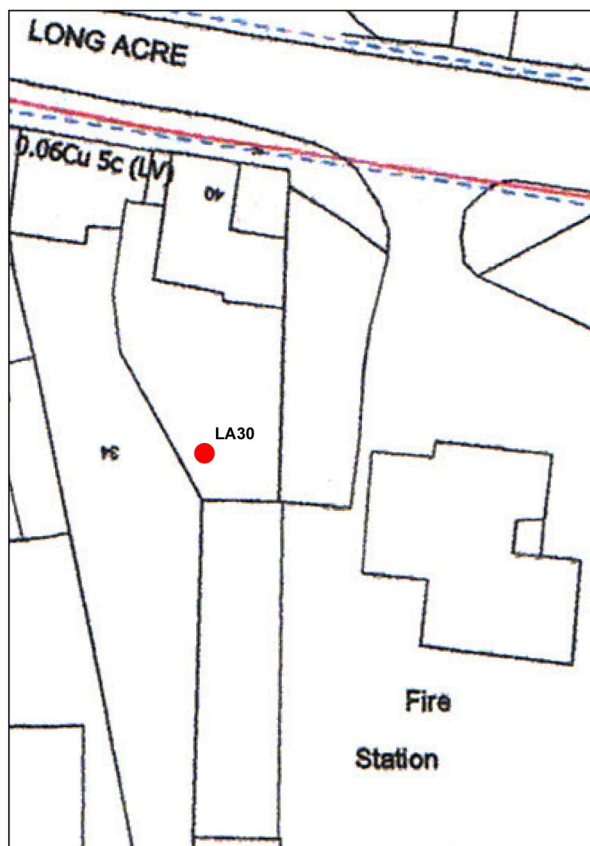
occupied by tenant farmers of the Stapleton (later Chesterfield) estate. Robert Porter had the freehold to about a hundred acres in the parish and was independent of the estate. Agnes Musson held about 60 acres, mainly as strips in the open fields. Both Agnes's and Robert's plots extended southwards to border on the “Waste”, now The Banks. This was the northern boundary of the South Open Field. Roger Gill's plot did not extend so far. He was a cottager but, unusually, held about 7 acres in the open fields. The description of his holding recorded in the estate survey was “a cottage, toft and 1 bovat land”. Most cottagers had only their cottage plot and tended to live on Newgate, Church and East Streets.



Tithe map of 1841.



The OS map for 1910.



The modern topography, by permission of Western Power.

1776

By the time of the 1776 survey of the Earl of Chesterfield's estates in Nottinghamshire William Doncaster had taken on the tenancy of the plot. H Sherbrook had been a Porter but he changed his name to Sherbrook to meet the conditions of his father-in-law's will. Widow Foster's family were substantial farmers. In addition, William Doncaster rented about three quarters of an acre of grazing rights on the moorland north of the town, possibly enough for one cow to provide milk for the family. William was listed in the trade directory as a bricklayer (which indicated builder) as was Richard, his son.

1841

The tithe map of 1841 was the first large scale map of Bingham. The list of occupiers of the various properties (the apportionment) can in many cases be matched with the 1841 census to find out family details not available to us for previous years.

The plot (297 on the tithe map) was now occupied by Richard Doncaster, a builder. He had already purchased the freehold plot 299 (Tealby House etc). The map seems to show a range of buildings

on the south site of the house that are no longer present. LA30 is sited on the edge of these. The tithe map suggests that since 1776 an extra cottage, plot 298, had been built (Pinchpenny) between Tealby House and number 40. Although the tithe map shows a boundary feature between the two plots, the 1910 map does not. Might this hint at a single occupier? The garden boundaries have been rearranged in recent times.

Plot 298 was occupied by Mary Dent, the widow of John Dent, a draper, who died in 1824. She died in 1843. When they married in 1801 he had been a weaver, which might explain the blocked up widows in Pinchpenny Cottage. The name Dent does not appear in any of the trade directories.

Plot 295 was part of the large holding of John Foster, farmer, who had by now moved from a house fronting Long Acre to Banks House on The Banks, at the southern end of the plot. On the 1910 map, the long building shown in the SE of the plot is in fact the old barn at the Fire Station now next door. It is shown within Foster's curtilage on the tithe map and modern maps.

LA30

40, LONG ACRE

LOCATION AND PROTOCOL

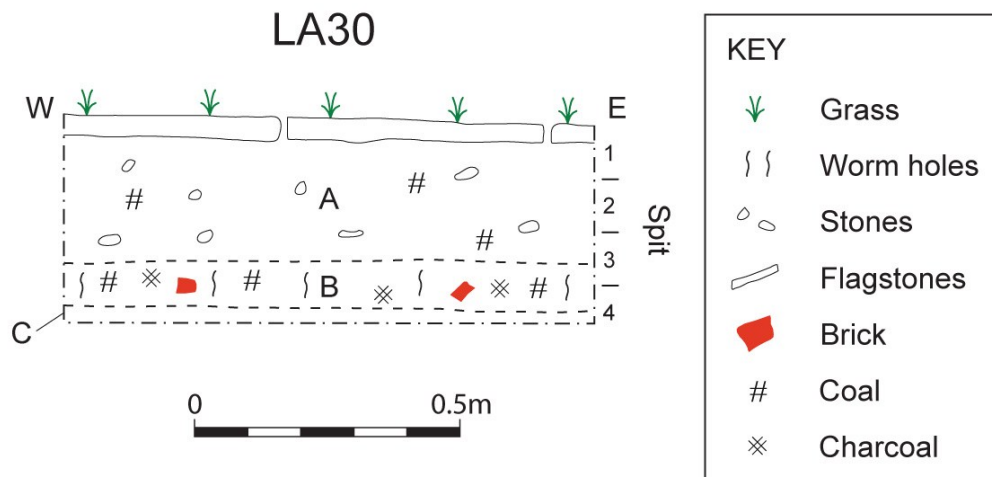
NGR	470523.338799
Height OD	25m (from map)
Address	40, Long Acre, Andy Callan
Dig dates	18 th July 2016
Pit site	Pit in the corner of a flower bed with York Stone flagstone paving on the north and east side. Flags laid directly onto soil. Garden is terraced with no lawn. Lifted flowers to make a 1 metre square pit. Replanted them at the end.
Pit protocol	1-metre pit, N-S orientated, 10 cm spits, everything sieved



The test pit was located in a flower garden.

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ANALYSIS OF RESULTS



- A Dark brown-black topsoil with small pebbles, coal 1-2 %
- B Gradational boundary with topsoil. Red-brown clay soil with coal, brick pieces, charcoal, bits of mortar and vertical worm tubes.
- C Red-brown clay with grey-green mottles. Weathered top with vertical worm tubes. Mercia Mudstone.

Description of pit

This was a shallow pit, going only to 45 cm. The top 27 cm were dark brown, cultivated garden soil with stones and small pieces of coal. It passed down into lighter brown clay subsoil. The boundary between them is convoluted and though the lighter subsoil contains coal and charcoal it is probably the weathered top to the red-brown Mercia Mudstone shale beneath it.

Finds

There was little **building material** compared with the other Long Acre pits. Five items only were recovered and they were mostly plaster with one brick piece and one fragment of a floor tile. They all came from between 20 and 30 cm depth.

Metallic objects were found at all depths to the base of the pit. Nails, a screw and a ring were recognised, but many of the others were indeterminable lumps of rust.

Glass fragments were numerous. Most of them were clear (43%) and consisted of 1/16th and 1/8th inch window glass, bottle fragments and a piece of a decorative bowl. There were five aqua fragments, one of which was an embossed bottle with the letters MP. Another was the neck of a fine bottle, one piece was 3/32nd inch window with a chemical patina; another a flat-sided bottle. All the green fragments were bottle glass, including a heavy, nearly black bottle possible for wine and fairly old. One green-brown bottle was embossed with a rectangle.

Several very small pieces of **bone** were found at all depths

The only **miscellaneous** items were a ceramic rod impressed with ...MOREAN and a metal stud. A single piece of a stem and bowl part of a clay pipe was recovered.

Modern pottery predominated and half of it was Transfer Printed. All except one of these was blue and white. The exception was brown and white. All except two of the pieces for which a

form could be identified were plates either 20cm or 30 cm in diameter. The others were cups. Most of the other half of the finds included White Ware, all of which except one large dish were plates, Cream Ware plates and Cane-coloured Ware bowls. The rest were Jackfield Ware, Mocha

Ware, hand painted wares with a floral design, porcelain, a Late Brown Ware teapot lid and Staffordshire White Salt-glaze from a bowl. The Jackfield Ware and Cream Ware all have a long date range starting in the mid 18th C, but the Staffordshire White Salt-glaze was most commonly available between 1720 and 1780. Of the few sherds of **Unglazed Red Earthenware** only one was identifiable clearly as coming from a plant pot.

The **Coarse Earthenware** sherds were all from pancheons or jars. Most were red bodied, but there were pink-bodied and light-bodied sherds. There was one sherd of Yellow Coarse Earthenware. This is never abundant in Bingham, but it is ubiquitous and quite distinctive. This one, however, has a darker pink body than is usual.

The **stoneware** sherds were all from low in the pit. All except one piece was 19th century; the exception was 20th century.

Two **post-medieval** sherds were not easy to identify, but are both likely to be slipware, with a date range 1675 – 1750.

There were three **medieval** sherds, all from near the bottom of the pit. Two were Nottingham Splashed Ware dated 1170-1230 and the third was Nottingham iron-rich Green Glazed Ware dated 1200-1230.

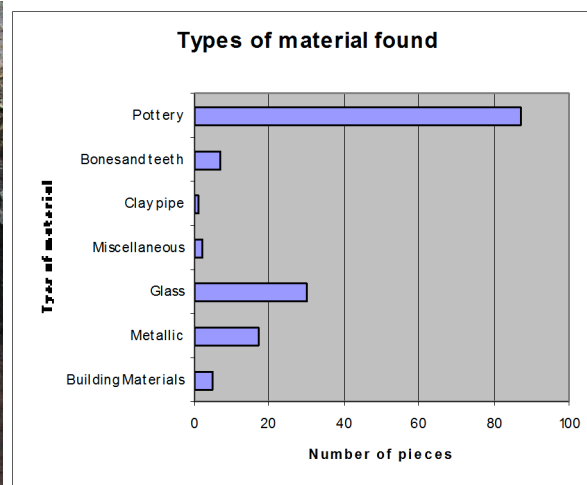
Interpretation

This was a shallow pit dug in a well-cultivated garden, which had clearly been dug and turned many times. It was also on a slope rising to two or three metres above the road level. It has been the property of cottagers since 1586.

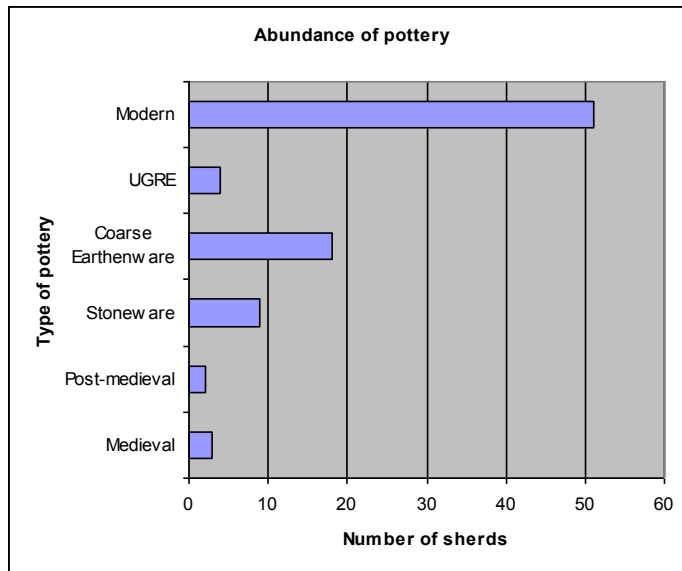
The medieval pottery found at the bottom of the pit is consistent in age, all falling in the period 1170 to 1230, and probably indicates that there was some kind of activity hereabouts in the early 13th C.



The north wall of the test pit



Relative abundance of different types of find.



The lack of any pottery above it dated before the late 17th century, even from the 16th C when it is known there was a cottage here, is probably an indication of the sort of disturbance caused by the site being a well cultivated garden on a steep slope.

Relative abundance of different types of pottery (UGRE stands for Unglazed Red Earthenware).