

**LA31**  
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT ON**  
**62, LONG ACRE**

**CONTENTS**

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

## LA31

### 62, LONG ACRE

#### SITE HISTORY

62 Long Acre is a modern house at the corner of Jebbs Lane by-road and Long Acre. Jebbs Lane is a hollow way which in medieval times gave access to the South Field, one of four open fields



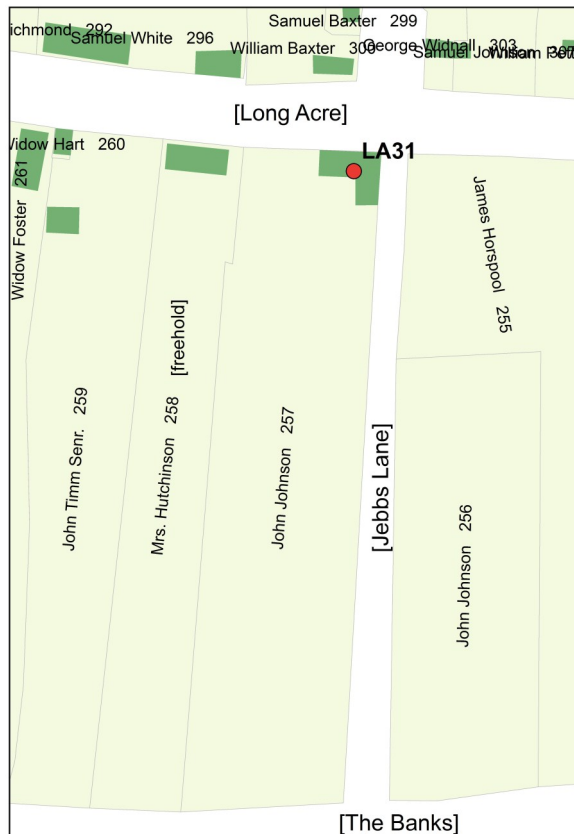
*The conjectural map for 1586 on the left with modern topography as an underlay on the right.*

Bingham had at that time. It may be the remnant of an Iron Age trackway. The site of No 62 Long Acre has been occupied since at least the 1500s. The pit was dug in the front garden.

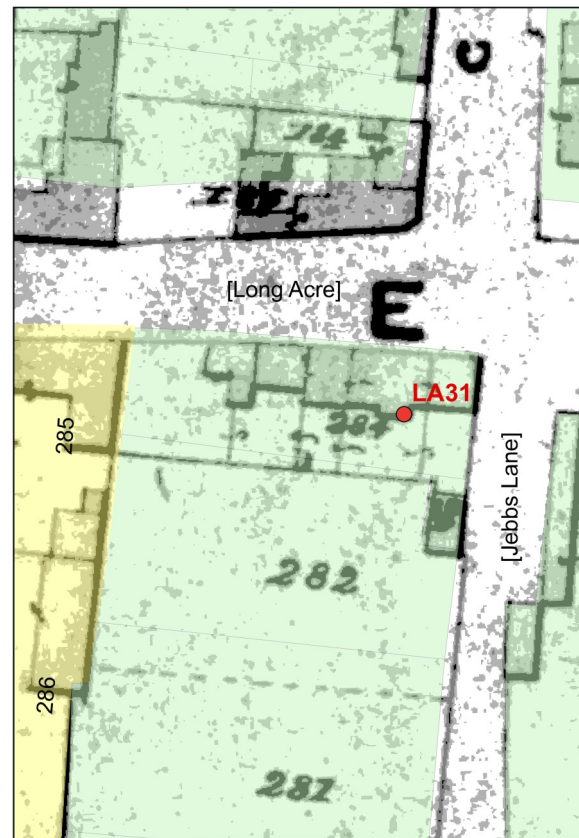
#### 1586

In 1586 Jebbs Lane was known as Selby Lane, after the family who then occupied plots on either side. “Selby Cross”, mentioned in the estate survey of that time was most probably on the north side of the junction with Long Acre. The survey was drawn up for the then Lord of the Manor, Bryan Stapleton. This listed all the tenants of the estate but was not accompanied by a map. BHTA reconstructed the probable map of Bingham from the information contained in the text. Husband Street is interpreted as the street of the farmers. Most properties were the homesteads of farmers who also held strips in the open fields. The other class of tenant, cottagers who generally had no strips, were mainly found on East Street, Church Street and Newgate Street.

Robert Selby had a “tenement with 6 bovates of land, a barn, yard and croft” and 45 acres of mainly strips (about a quarter of an acre each) spread around the four fields. He also farmed land directly on behalf of the lord of the manor (demesne land).



*Map for 1776.*



*Tithe map for 1841.*

### 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 accurate plans showing the location of each one, but there was not a complete map of the parish. Unsurprisingly the map of 1776 shows a similar configuration of plot boundaries to 1586.

The test pit was at the north east corner of plot 257, which was tenanted by John Johnson. He held only about 15 acres of land which seems to have been mainly pasture in different parts of by now the enclosed parish.

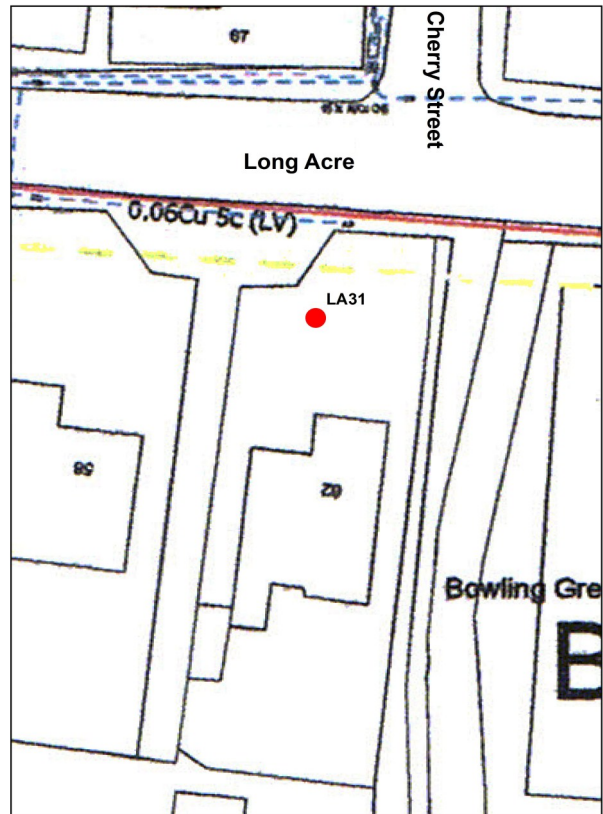
### 1841

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 the land owner (in the majority of cases the Earl of Chesterfield), the primary occupier, area and the rate to be paid.

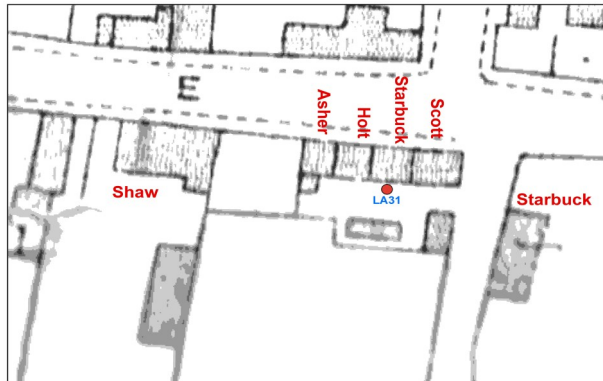
By 1841 a row of five cottages had been built in the north east corner of the plot and housed agricultural labourers. In the apportionment table only one occupier was named for plot 284, which included all five cottages. This was John Derry, an agricultural labourer, who also had plot 280, one of five garden pieces south of plot 284, presumably for growing vegetables etc. Other likely gardeners who rented cottages were John Goodwin, John Parr, and Robert Holt with two plots; he also had a blacksmith's shop in the NE corner. The other two garden plots were held by Charles White and William Johnson who had houses elsewhere in the town.



OS map for 1883



Modern map by permission of Western Power.



1911 census map.



View west down Long Acre from near the junction with Jebb's Lane in 1896. On the right is Regency house at the top of Cherry Street. On the left is the row of cottages demolished to make way for the modern houses.

### 1911

By 1910, and probably before 1883, the western-most cottage had been demolished or part of it incorporated into next door. The 1911 census return suggests occupation as follows (West to East):

#### Cottage 1

Mary Asher, 73, widow laundress, b. East Bridgford

Daughter, Annie Asher, 43, laundress, b. Clipston.

#### Cottage 2

William Holt, 70, widower, General Labourer, b. Bingham

[We think not related to Robert above]

Jane Otter, 89, mother-in-law

Elizabeth Smith, 13, granddaughter, b. Bingham

Doris Holt, 4, granddaughter, b. Bingham.

#### Cottage 3

Samuel Starbuck, 29, stationary engineman

Ethel Maude Starbuck, 31, wife

Alec Noel Starbuck, 2, son

Samuel Stanley Starbuck, 1, son

[The test pit was immediately to the rear of cottage 2].

#### Cottage 4

John Scott, 65, widower, Estate Wood Steward

John Donald Scott, 40, son, single, Estate Agent

Mary Holt, 26, housekeeper, single.

**LA31**

**62, LONG ACRE**

**LOCATION AND PROTOCOL**

<b>NGR</b>	470669.339796
<b>Height OD</b>	23m (from map)
<b>Address</b>	62, Long Acre, Steve Szondy
<b>Dig dates</b>	19 <sup>th</sup> – 21 <sup>st</sup> July 2016
<b>Pit site</b>	Lawn at front of the bungalow on the corner with Jebb's Lane.
<b>Pit protocol</b>	1-metre pit, N-S orientated, 10 cm spits, everything sieved. Dug to 25 cm across the pit then downwards only in the NE quadrant. Revealed a drain in the western half. Did not remove it.

## LA31

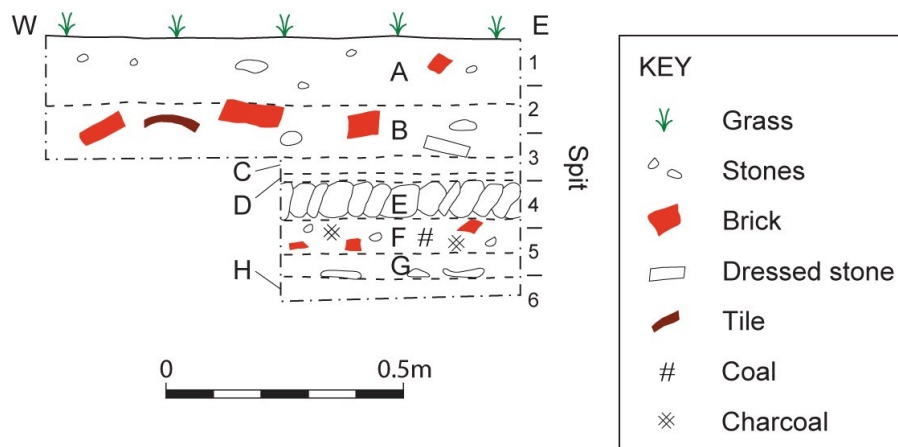
### ANALYSIS OF RESULTS

#### Description of pit

The top 12 cm are topsoil laid after building the modern bungalow. Builders' rubble beneath it contains a range of building material, including a roof tile similar to those on the modern roof of the bungalow.

This rubble is laid directly onto an old, man-made surface. The top layer is about 2cm of mortar laid on asphalt. Beneath the asphalt is a cobbled yard, but in order to level it before adding the asphalt a mix of soil and angular gravel had been spread over it. The cobbled surface is made up mainly of local stones, set on edge and closely packed against each other.

#### LA31



- A Turf on dark brown soil with small pebbles.
- B Rubbly layer with rounded pebbles, whole bricks, mortar, clay lumps.
- C Soft mortar layer, thin.
- D Asphalt
- E Stone yard. Cobbles set on edge. Thin layer of small gravel and soil spread on the surface of the stone yard to level it before putting the asphalt on.
- F Red marly material mixed with small brick pieces, pot, charcoal, coal etc.
- G Brown weathered top to basal shale. Layer of skerry up to 8 cm at base.
- H Red-brown shale.

The stones have been set into a layer of red clay, which seems to be crushed shale or mudstone. It is mixed with pieces of brick, pottery, charcoal and coal.

The crushed shale is laid on brown weathered top to the basal clay. There is a layer of stones set in the weathered top. Beneath it is red-brown shale with grey-green reduction spots and a vein of gypsum, clearly Mercia Mudstone.

No part of this sequence above the mudstone is natural.

On the western side of the pit an old ceramic drain was encountered. It was broken and would have flowed towards the bungalow. It was beneath the asphalt layer, but was in a trench that had been cut through the cobbled yard. The edge of the trench was not clearly seen, but the fill was a mix of clay and rubble. A name impressed into the ceramic drain pipe told that it was made by John Knowles of Woodville, Derby.



*North side of the pit shows the mortar surface on asphalt. The cobbled surface just shows beneath.*



*Close up of the junction in the drain. It was broken before the pit was dug and flows towards the house.*



*The cobbled surface before the layer of dirt put over it was cleaned off.*



*The cobbled layer after it was cleaned up.*



*Close up of the drain pipe with the words John Knowles Woodville impressed on it*



*The completed pit, north pointing to the bottom of the [page].*

### **Finds**

All the **building material** collected except some brick pieces was found above the stone yard level, the top of which was at about 25 cm. It included bricks, slate, red clay roofing tile, mortar, plaster, concrete tile and ceramic tile. Some lumps of an unidentified material that might be resin

were found. The bricks were 2¼, 2 3/8<sup>th</sup>, 2 5/8<sup>th</sup>, 2 ¾ inch thick. Two whole 2 3/8<sup>th</sup> inch thick bricks were taken out. Various stones were also taken up; all were varieties of Triassic sandstone. Two brick-shaped objects were made of a synthetic material that consisted of small, closely packed spheres. Some of the plaster had reed impressions on one side and was whitewashed. Among the roof tiles, however, were fragments that matched the modern roof exactly. None of the brick pieces from below the yard could be measured. This assemblage seems to be a mixture of debris from building the modern bungalow and debris from a demolished older building on this site.

All the **metal** objects were collected from above the yard surface. These included a lot of nails, both oval head and square head, screws, a hacksaw blade, door hinge, cast iron features from railings, wire and electrical fittings.

The **miscellaneous** items were also all from above the yard surface. They included carbon rods, buttons, pieces of plastic, an oyster shell and pieces of tarmac.

**Bones** were recovered from all depths.

Eleven fragments of **clay pipe** were recovered, all above the yard surface. Two were thick, brownish stem lengths with a wide hole and probably date from the 17<sup>th</sup> or early 18<sup>th</sup> C. The rest were dated to after 1750, though there is a possibility that one or two were early in this period. The two bowl fragments were 19<sup>th</sup> century; one with a decoration of paired leaves along the seam of the bowl, the other is fluted and can be tied down to 1860 to 1900.

Of the 23 pieces of **glass** taken out of the pit, one flat, aqua piece with a patina formed by chemical reaction with the soil is likely to be window glass. It was found immediately below the stone layer. All the rest were from above the yard surface. 36% of the pieces were window glass, nearly all aqua and 1/16<sup>th</sup> inch thick. Only one was 3/16<sup>th</sup> inch. There was minor indication of a patina on some. One other piece of white, patterned glass as likely to be from a decorative vessel of some kind. The other pieces are from bottles. There were several old, green-black wine bottles and more modern green bottles with embossed patterns or part lettering. Several fragments of aqua bottles include one clearly from a Codd bottle.

**Pottery** from medieval to modern was recovered. However, among the **modern** pottery, only one tiny piece of Cream Ware and a piece of Flow Blue were found below the stone yard, while a piece of White Ware was found between the stones. All the rest was taken from above the cobbled layer. Most of the pieces that could be identified were from cups, a bowl and a jug. None were obviously from a plate. Most pieces were White Ware (1830-1950), none decorated. One was from a small cup and the other an 11 cm diameter jar. Cream Ware (1740-1850) was also common and one piece was green edged shell-edged tableware. Usually in Bingham blue-edged tableware has been found, though green is known to have been used. This was being made between 1775 and 1890. The transfer printed wares are blue, pale blue, lilac and pink on white. The lilac and pink came in after 1828, the others could date from the late 18<sup>th</sup> C to recent. Less common than these are Flow Blue, Mocha Ware and Cane-coloured Ware, all 19<sup>th</sup> C ware types. A single, small sherd of Staffordshire White Salt-glaze was found, which dates from 1720 to 1780.

A dozen sherds of **Unglazed Red Earthenware** were found above the stone floor. Three of them were definitely from plant pots.

Considering there are only five sherds of **post-medieval** pottery four types were recorded: Cistercian Ware (1450-1550), Midland Black Ware (1575-1725), Midland Yellow Ware (1575-1700) and Slip-trailed Ware (1675-1750). The Midland Black Ware is red bodied and was found among



the building rubble between 15 and 25 cm depth. The Cistercian Ware was sitting on the cobbles, while both pieces of Midland Yellow Ware were recovered from between the stones. The Slip-trailed Ware was recovered from underneath the stone floor.

Six sherds of **coarse earthenware** were found, two of them below the stone floor. Both of these were Vitrified Black-glazed Coarse Earthenware with a dark brown-black glaze on the inside only. The others were pink-bodied, red-bodied and brown glazed coarse earthenware. Both the pink-bodied sherds had a dark brown glaze on a red slip and one was a rim piece from a 36 cm diameter pancheon. These were likely to have been in use from c1675 to mid 20<sup>th</sup> C, though pink bodied and vitrified sherds tend to be earlier than 1800.

There were three sherds of **stoneware**, all from above the stone floor. One of them was early 18th century with an orange fabric (1700-1725),. One was 19th to mid 20th century. The others, while a piece found between the cobble stones was unfortunately of doubtful identification, ranged from 18th through 19th centuries.

A single sherd of **medieval** pottery was found at the bottom of the pit. It was post-Black Death Light-bodied Gritty Ware (1380-1480).

### **Interpretation**

This pit revealed a complex, mainly 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> C history. The topsoil was probably laid during the landscaping that followed the building of the bungalow in the mid to late 20<sup>th</sup> C.

Beneath it is a layer of rubble containing material that was derived from the modern building, but it is mixed with demolition rubble from an earlier date. The cottages along Long Acre, which were set between the site of this pit and the road edge were demolished to make way for these newer building. From the brick dimensions the cottages were built in the 19<sup>th</sup> C.

The pit was situated over the backyard to one of these cottages and at a depth of 25 cm the top of a surface presumed to be this backyard was revealed. This yard was a multi-layered structure:

- Mortar
- Asphalt
- Soil
- Stones
- Red clay

The layer of mortar at the top is only 2cm thick and it is difficult to find an explanation for it because the asphalt underneath it is in good condition. The asphalt covered much of the pit and was laid over the trench containing the drain. The drain, which sloped towards the present bungalow, became redundant when the bungalow was built and was damaged during the building work.

The trench containing the drain, while being under the asphalt, had been cut through the stone yard. The drain was made by John Knowles of Woodville, Derby. This company was founded in 1849. However, it was not until after 1914, when John Hassall became general manager, that they branched out into clay sewer and drainage pipes. Their manufacture stopped in the 1970s, when the company was restructured and the clay workings of Woodville were closed and landscaped. This dates the laying of the drain at sometime between 1914 and the demolition of the cottages in 1970s. The asphalt was laid after this.

The stone yard pre-dates the laying of the drain. The range of dates for the pottery found above the floor is wide, ranging from Cistercian Ware (1450-1550) to mid 20<sup>th</sup> C. Also the pottery found impressed between the stones includes both pieces of Midland Yellow Ware that were found. Before the asphalt was laid a layer of stony soil was spread over the cobbles to level the surface and

the pottery was probably added at this time. There is therefore no date significance to their presence in this part of the sequence, though the Midland Yellow Ware does indicate some sort of activity in the neighbouring area in the 16th and 17th centuries.

The stones in the floor were laid on a layer of red clay, which contained coal, charcoal, brick, rounded stones, a piece of 1/16<sup>th</sup> inch window glass and pottery sherds. The clay must have had a local source. Among the pottery sherds are White Ware, Flow Blue and Slip-trailed Ware. This red clay, whatever its source, is a typical example of vernacular building methods. It has been found fulfilling this function of providing a base layer to a built structure as early as the late 13<sup>th</sup> C. In most places the clay is glacial in origin, but here it seems to be crushed Triassic mudstone. The most significant of the finds in the red clay is the Flow Blue. While White Ware has a long date range from about 1830 Flow Blue was being made from 1840 to 1900, though in popularity it was at its height before 1860. From this it can be said that the cobbles were laid after 1840.

The foundation layer of clay was laid on the weathered top of the basal clay. Vitrified Coarse Earthenware, medieval pottery, bones and stones were found below the clay layer. The stones were local fine-grained sandstone, commonly found resting on the bedrock. Here they lie on red mudstone with small grey reduction spots and an 8mm wide vein of gypsum. This is clearly of Triassic age. This weathered material is little over 5 cm thick, thus there is no evidence of a natural soil layer.

The only evidence there is of activity here before the 19<sup>th</sup> C lies in the pre-19<sup>th</sup> C sherds, which must have been at surface near here before any building took place.