

LA32

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT ON
TEALBY HOUSE, LONG ACRE**

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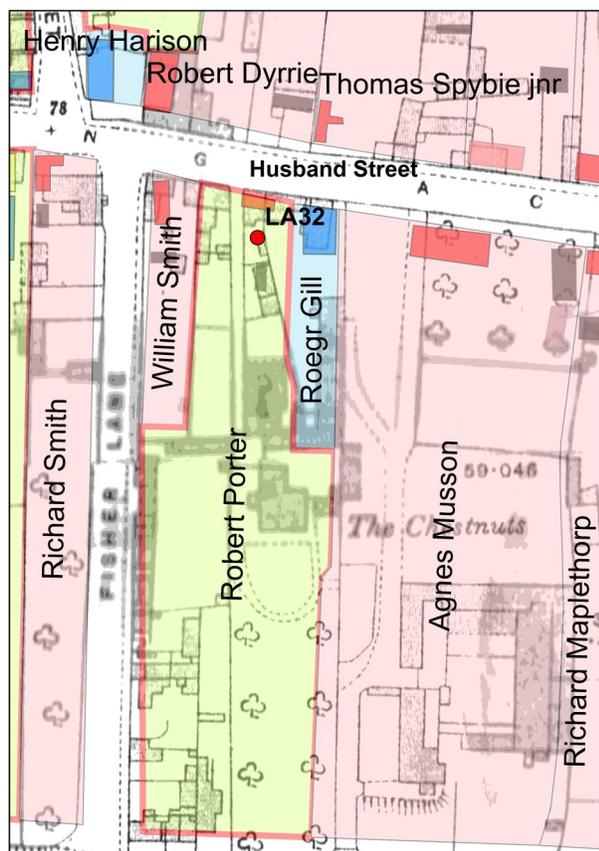
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TEALBY HOUSE, LONG ACRE

SITE HISTORY

Tealby House stands in the north east corner of what used to be the Shearing Close. This extended west to take in Falcon House and south to the boundary with the Banks. A driveway along the centre of the plot leads to Bradshaw's Cottage on the east, Numbers 32 and 34 on the west and the



The conjectural map for 1586 overlain on the 1910 OS map.



Part of the estate map for 1776. The plot boundaries have not changed since 1586.

former Temperance Chapel at the south. There is also a gate giving access to Long Acre House. It was one of the few freeholds not owned by the Lord of the Manor's estate.

1586

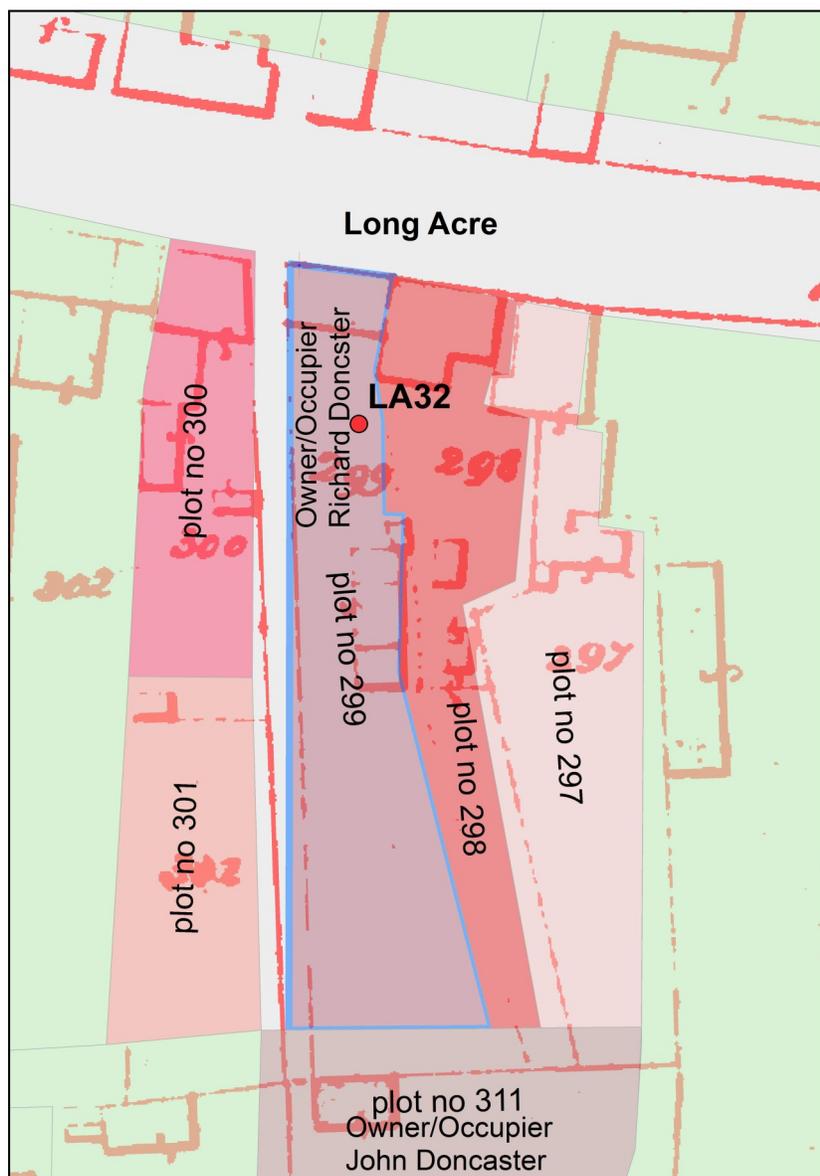
Long Acre was then known as Husband Street – the street of farmers. In 1586 the whole of the Shearing Close was owned by Robert Porter. His main house was on what is now Crow Close, on Cogley Lane. The estate survey of 1586 identified the holding only through references to it from adjoining estate-owned properties. That survey was a sale inventory for the estate and as such did not identify non estate houses and properties. We do not know if there was a house here, but it would be surprising if there were not. The chief neighbouring properties were homesteads of tenant farmers, who also held strips in the open fields. Richard Smith on the west side of Fisher Lane held 40 acres and Agnes Musson 61 acres. William Smith, who lived on the corner of Fisher Lane and Husband Street, also a tenant farmer held only 5 strips. Roger Gill was one of the few cottag-

ers holding strips; he held 7 acres including his small cottage plot.

1776

No street names were mentioned in the 1776 Chesterfield Estate survey, which shows that the boundaries of 1586 had not changed and that the plot was still freehold. The owner was H Sherbrooke. Henry Porter had married into the Sherbrooke family. Under the terms of his father in law's will he changed his surname so as to inherit the Sherbrooke lands in Oxtun. The plot was called Shearing Close. We do not know if there was a house on the plot or not.

William Doncaster rented a house (now 38 Long Acre, Pinchpenny Cottage) from the estate and had a small area of moorland for grazing. William and his son Richard were listed as bricklayers (builders) in the Trade Directory of 1793. Samuel Wright was similar but had a second holding (but no house) further west along Long Acre. Widow Foster's family were substantial farmers with land distributed throughout the parish.



Tithe map for 1841.

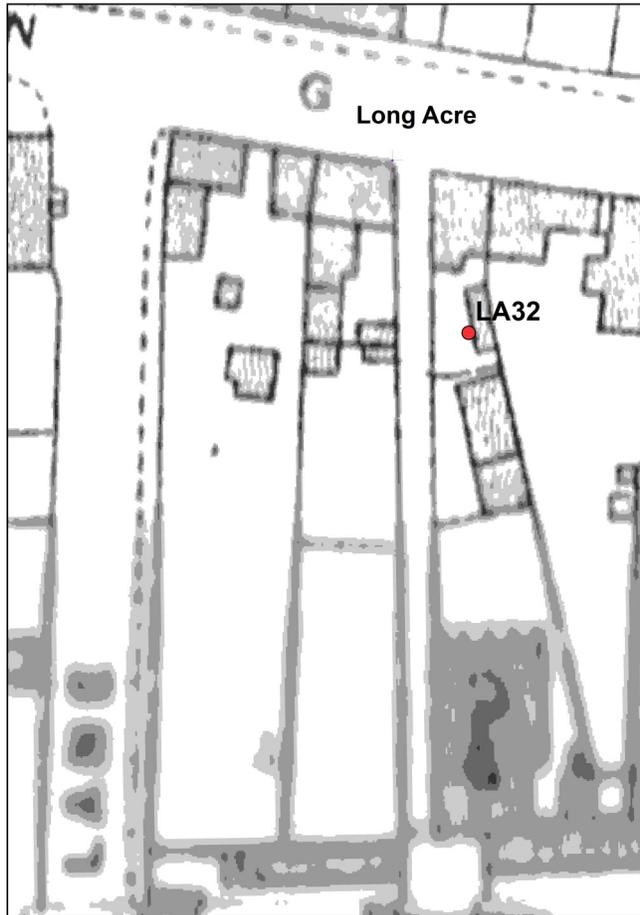
1841

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.

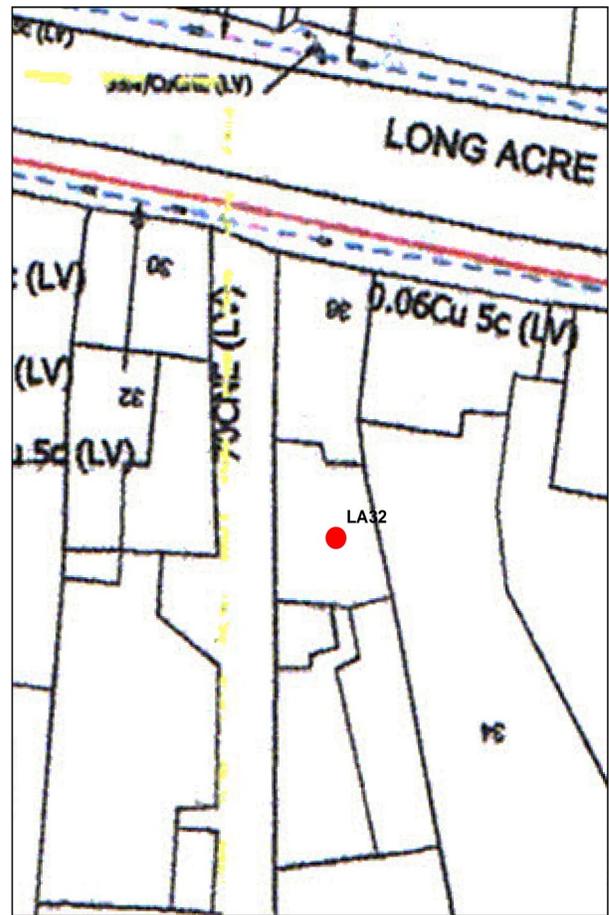
In 1841 Richard Doncaster was identified as being the owner occupier of the northern part of the old Shearing Close. His nephew John was owner occupier of the southern part. Richard was described as 80 years old and of independent means. John was 40, a builder, with a wife and daughter.

The detailed house history as recorded in the deeds is elsewhere on this web site. It records that Richard had bought the Shearing Close from the Sherbrooke family in 1813 and later sold the plot for the Temperance Hall and Providence House (now Long Acre House) to John in 1820. The deeds record that Richard erected the three houses (presumably Tealby, Falcon and number 32).

The plot occupied by Tealby



OS map for 1910.



Modern map by permission of Western Power.

House also included Bradshaw's Cottages, as a barn. In the early part of the 1900s the house was occupied by William Wright, a county court bailiff. In 1957 it was bought by William Thompson. His family were the first owner occupiers and lived there until 2016.

The 1910 shows a long outbuilding alongside the site of LA32. This was a stable and outhouse (possibly a privy). Mr Thompson demolished the stable in the 1950s/1960s. Bradshaw's cottages, converted in 1851 by Richard Doncaster, were sold off in 1947. A small extension was added in 1996 to the rear of Tealby House to enlarge the kitchen and bathroom.

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TEALBY HOUSE, LONG ACRE

LOCATION AND PROTOCOL

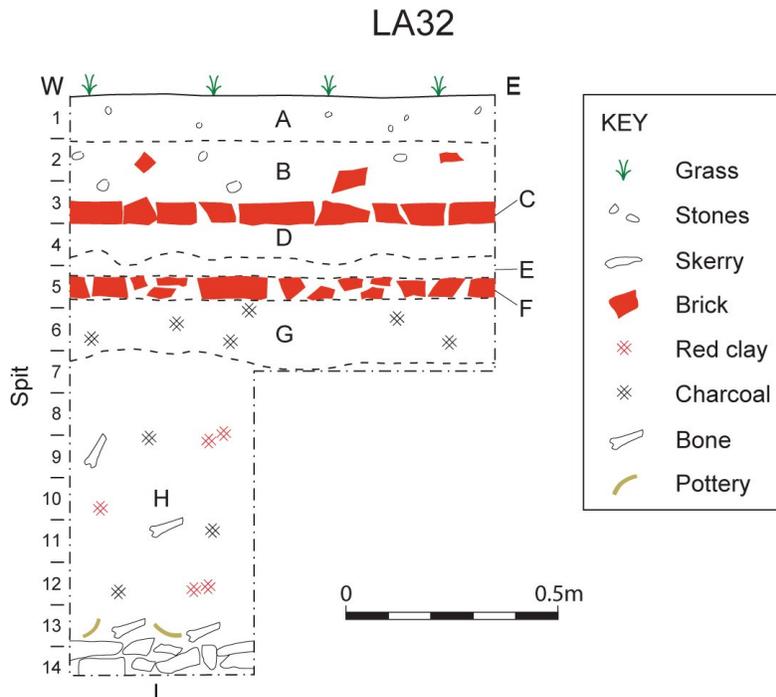
NGR 470506.339807
Height OD 24 m (from map)
Address Tealby House, 36, Long Acre. House for sale and unoccupied at the time the pit was dug.
Dig dates 1st-3rd Aug. 2016
Pit site Pit in very small lawn at the back of the house.
Pit protocol 1-metre pit, N-S orientated, 10 cm spits, everything sieved. Dug to about 65 cm then continued downwards in a N-S sondage 43 cm wide on the western side of the pit. The base was at 137 cm at the north end of the pit.



The site

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ANALYSIS OF RESULTS



- A Turf on dark brown loamy topsoil with small pebbles. Thickness varies from 11 cm along N face to 18 cm in the SE.
- B Red-brown clay with small brick pieces, stones and plaster.
- C Layer of brick pieces resembles a path, but has an irregular top surface.
- D Green-grey clayey sand. Irregular upper surface, slopes slightly to the west. Bottom is irregular.
- E Red-brown clay. Crushed Triassic shale. The top is rutted and filled in with sand.
- F Discontinuous layer of small brick pieces and mortar with a few whole bricks.
- G Red-brown crushed shale with charcoal only. Highly irregular base. An oblique layer of mortar crosses this context in the western face.
- H Grey-brown clay soil with scattered charcoal and small blocks of red-brown clay. Bones at spit 9 and again with large pieces of pot just above the base. Layer of skerry stones at the bottom. [Remove a large piece of Midland Yellow Ware and a red clay tile and a clay pipe bowl from the wall of the pit at spit 13.]
- I Basal red-brown shale with sparse grey reduction spots. The top slopes from, 137 cm in the north to 125 cm in south. Likely to be the Triassic shale.

Description of pit

The top 10 cm consists of topsoil with a few pebbles underneath the turf.

Beneath the topsoil is a layer of red-brown clay with plentiful pieces of brick, one measured as 2 3/8th inches thick. In the upper parts it is mixed with topsoil, bits of pottery and glass. Other building material includes red clay roofing tile, mortar. Some skerry is with these. This looks like it has been shovelled into place after some sort of building activity.

It rests on a brick surface thought at first to be a path because it lined up with a filled-in door in the back of the house. Its surface is slightly irregular and was encountered at a depth of 30 cm on the west side and 25 cm on the east side. It covered the whole pit. The bricks were a mix of 2 1/4 and 2 3/8th inches thick. Some skerry and red clay tile was found among the bricks. It remains uncertain if this is a path or a back yard.



The test pit at a depth of 20 cm

The bricks were set on a layer of green-grey clayey sand, which has been laid on a rutted surface of red-brown crushed shale. This overlay another brick surface encountered at about 43 cm depth. This one was more like a layer of rubble with other types of building material. There were some whole bricks, but mostly they were pieces and they did not form a continuous layer. The bricks included 2 ¼ inch hand made, yellow brick, some with mortar attached, 2 3/8th and 3 inches thick pieces.



The finished pit

Underneath this was another layer of crushed shale. It contained a lot of charcoal and an oblique layer of mortar across the western face. The base is highly irregular and was encountered at depths from 53 to 63 cm.

Essentially the whole of the sequence above this is man-made.

The lowest layer of crushed shale lies on grey-brown clay soil, probably the original garden soil. It becomes gradually more clay rich downwards and lighter in colour. It contains bones, charcoal, pottery, clay pipes, glass and other objects. Bone is plentiful at around 80 cm depth. Below 120 cm depth is a layer of flat skerry stones and abundant bones. Underneath the stones there are more bones, a large piece of red clay roofing tile and large pieces of pot, mostly Midland Yellow Ware.



The west wall.

The top of the Triassic shale, which is red-brown with grey reduction spots, is at c137 cm on the north side and 125 cm on the south side of the pit.

Finds

There is a marked difference in the relative amounts of different types of find above and below about 65cm depth. This is the bottom of the man-made part of the succession. Below it is presumed to be the natural soil profile.

Excluding the brickwork found in the paths encountered 91% of the **building materials** finds were collected in the top 70 cm. They include brick, plaster, floor tile, roof tile and slate. Measurable brick pieces and the whole bricks in the path in spit 3 were 2 ¼ and 2 3/8th inch thick. One piece was measured at 2 1/8th. A piece of vitrified brick was recovered, though many of the pieces were handmade. Reed impressions were seen on one side of some pieces of plaster. Two of the floor tiles appear to be made of stone.



The west wall of the test pit showing the full depth to 137 cm.

Below 70 cm there were four pieces of floor tile, two pieces of plaster and a piece of brick, nearly all below a metre down. Though few in number these pieces were large.

The **metallic** objects including the clinker are evenly distributed down the pit. The objects recorded include nails, wing nuts and screws. All from above 70 cm were found in the top 40 cm, which is above the rutted upper surface of the crushed Triassic clay.

es of coal were recovered below 70 cm. The other items were a bone disc, a slate pencil and a button. The button, found in the topsoil was embossed “Tonkin & Co Devonport”. This was a company of tailors and outfitters originally run by William Tonkin who set it up in 1881. Later it traded under the name Tonkin Foot and Broad, but it went out of business in 1901. They had supply contracts with the armed forces. If this were a military button then it is likely to indicate that someone from here or connected with the house had served in the Boer War.

Miscellaneous items recovered were few and only a piece of a cockle shell and one of two pieces



All except two pieces of **glass** were from above 70 cm. One of these was from a green bottle and the other was green glass with a rolled edge possibly from the base of a wine glass. Both had a gold patina. All except three of the other 30 pieces were green bottle glass, most with a gold patina. Some were from heavy bottles with a punted base suggestive of wine bottles. The three others were aqua 1/16th and 3/32nd inch thick window glass and a fine aqua bottle.

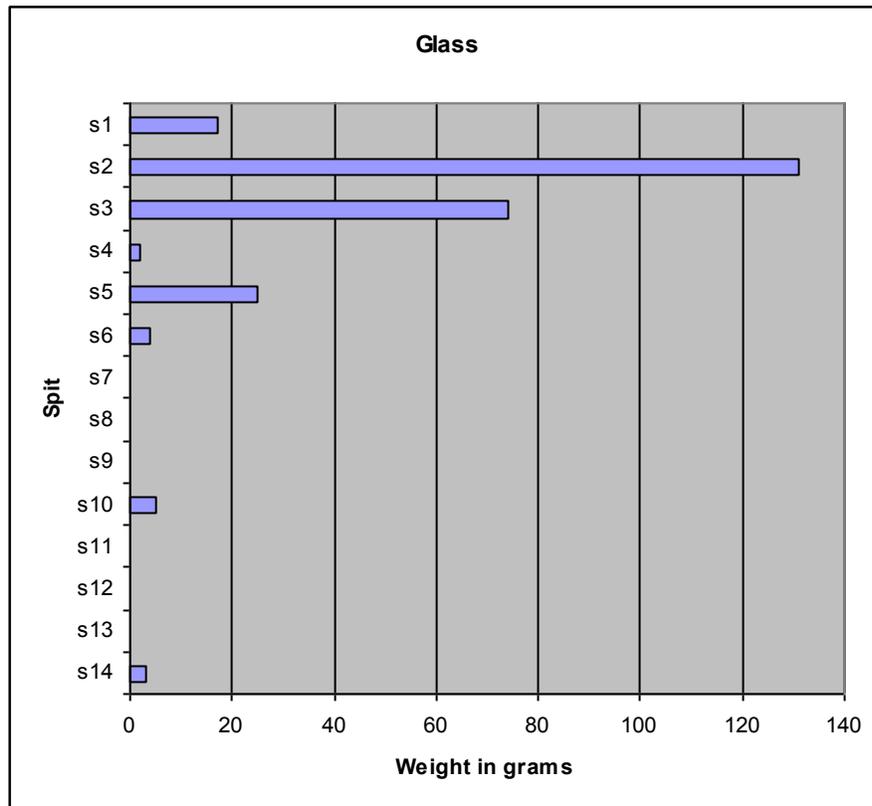
Clay pipe stems were recovered throughout the depth of the pit. Above 60 cm they were all 19th C and white. Below 70 cm five bowl fragments were found. Three were 17th to early 18th C; one was

a complete bowl dated 1680 to 1700. The fifth was difficult to date and had a span 17th to 19th C. The rest were stems, only four of which were 19th C, though one was burnt. The others were both thin and thick, but made of brownish clay and with a wide hole. This would make them early 18th

C or before.

Bones and teeth occur at all depths, but with about two thirds of them below 70 cm.

90% of the **Modern** pottery was found above 70 cm depth and 88% of this was above 40 cm. The range of types is limited to Cream Ware, White Ware, Cane-coloured Ware, Transfer Print, Mocha Ware, Jackfield-type and an unknown piece of slipware. All the cane-coloured, Mocha and Jackfield-type was found above the brick path, while nearly all the Transfer Print and White Ware was found above the brick path; only two of each were from the spit immediately underneath the path.



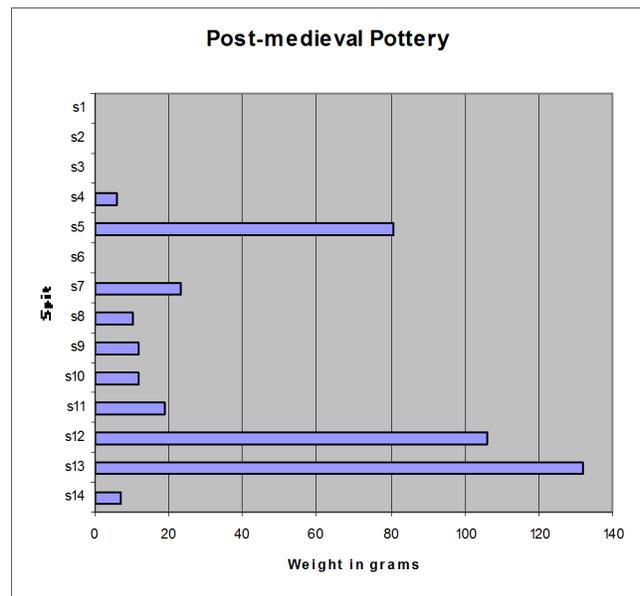
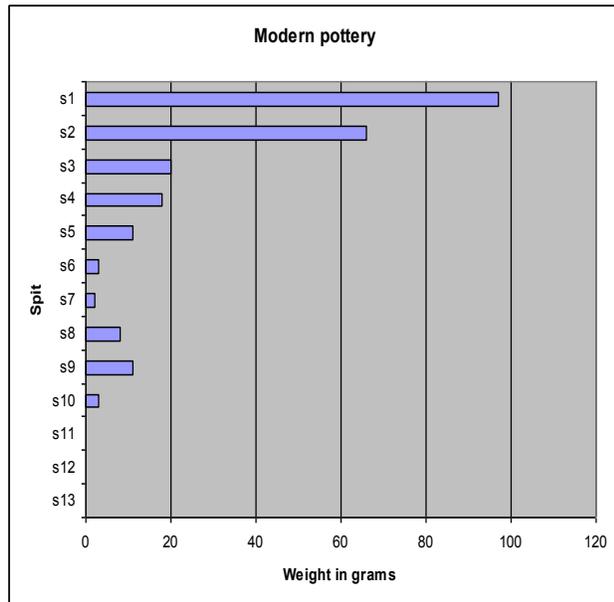
By contrast two sherds of Cream Ware were from above the brick path and five from between the 40 cm boundary and 70 cm. All the rest were from the natural soil. Cream Ware was the only Modern type of glazed ware to be present in the natural soil. Two sherds only of **Unglazed Red Earthenware** were recovered. They are most likely to be plant pots. Both were above the natural soil horizon.

Five types of **coarse earthenware** were found. The most abundant was Red-bodied Black Glazed Coarse Earthenware. It was found at all depths to 100 cm.

Pink-bodied Black Glazed Coarse Earthenware was found only below 20 cm and persisted to 130 cm depth. Only four sherds of Brown-glazed Coarse Earthenware were found and these were from 20 cm to 14 cm depth. Vitrified Glazed Coarse Earthenware was present from the topsoil to the bottom of the pit. The single sherd of Yellow Coarse Earthenware was found at the top of the natural soil profile. Forms recognised are the usual range for this ware type: pancheons, jars, cisterns and shouldered jars. Overall 54% of the Coarse Earthenware was recovered from above the surface at 40 cm.

Nine of the **stoneware** pieces were recovered from the top 30 cm of the pit, with one 19th century sherd from the top of the natural soil. These were a mix of 18th and 19th century pottery types and included a rather nice footrim of an 18th century bowl. The remaining six sherds were collected from 60 to 90 cm depth and were all 18th century with two pieces from towards the bottom being 1700-1725 and having the diagnostic orange fabric.

Only one of the **post-medieval** sherds, a piece of Coarse Black Ware (1550-1800), was found above the 40 cm surface. Between this and the top of the natural soil were 16 sherds of Black Ware, including Midland Black Ware (1575-1725), Mottled Ware (1675-1750) and Sandy Coarse Earthenware (1500-1650). Significantly the Mottled Ware occurred just above and within the top of the natural soil, while all the Midland Yellow Ware (1575-1700), most of the Midland Black Ware and Sandy Coarse Earthenware was found low down in the soil profile. One sherd of



combed slipware was found between 100 and 110 cm depth. Some of the Midland Yellow Ware was found in large pieces with fresh breaks.

There were three **medieval** sherds in the top 20 cm and one at the bottom of the pit. The three in the topsoil were Nottingham Splashed Ware (1100-1250), Midland Purple Ware 1380-1600) and Nottingham Light-bodied Green Glaze Ware (1220-1320). This assemblage is typical of the scattering that would occur at surface. The piece at the bottom of the pit is another Nottingham Light-bodied Green Glaze War (1220-1320)

Interpretation

As in most of the pits in Bingham the topsoil was probably transported to the present location either during landscaping when the house was built or at a later date during re-modelling of the garden. In this garden both the topsoil and the context below it down to the top of the brick feature at 25 cm depth have been brought to the present locality from elsewhere. There is little significance, therefore, in the content of the soil. However, there is one intriguing find. The military uniform button made by Tonkin & Co Devonport, found in the topsoil suggests that someone who visited or lived here may have taken part in the Boer War. The company went out of business in 1901. So far, a search of various records including the 1901 census has revealed no information about anyone associated with this house who may have served in this war.

The brick feature nominally at 25 cm tilts to the west, falling about 5 cm in one metre. It consists of late Georgian and early Victorian bricks with some clay tile and skerry stone mixed with them. It has been laid on a roughly 10 cm thick layer of green-grey clayey sand, which is relatively pure and contains few finds. There is no certainty if the brick feature, which lines up with a back door in the house that is visible though bricked up now, is a path leading to the old back door or a back yard. One of the recent inhabitants of the house can remember when the door was functional, but has no clear idea of when it was moved, though it must have been in the last 40 to 50 years. In recent memory horses were kept in the small stables here and it is more likely that the brick feature was a yard than a path.

The foundation layer of sand was laid on a rutted and irregular surface of red-brown clay, thought to be crushed Triassic mudstone. This in turn lies on a rubble layer mainly of bricks. Some are whole, while others are pieces. Among them are 2 ¼ inch yellow bricks, rough, hand-made red bricks both 2 3/8th inch and 3 inch thick with mortar attached. There is also some stone, bits of mortar and other materials among the bricks and it is difficult to be sure what the feature repre-

sented. The most likely explanation is that it was an earlier yard.

There is more crushed red shale underneath the layer of rubble. It has plenty of charcoal in it and a diagonal line of mortar in one wall. It is most likely to be a foundation layer for the rubble feature. The contrast in pottery content above and below the lower brick feature and the absence of any clay pipe pieces above it that date after about 1750 suggests that this feature might date to the late 18th century.

The base of this clay feature is highly irregular, but beneath it is the natural soil, which extends down to about 140 cm depth. Pottery, bones and lumps of clay were present throughout the depth. It is usual for the natural soil profiles in the centre of Bingham to show signs of disturbance through cultivation. However, in many pits there are signs that the finds are arranged in order of age, with the youngest at the top. This is so in this section. All the clay pipes below 90 cm depth are older than 1750. Medieval pottery was either in the topsoil or below 90 cm. The only Modern, glazed pottery in the soil is the predominantly 18th C Cream Ware with a date range 1740 to 1850. Midland Yellow Ware (1575-1700) was present only below 90 cm and the Mottled Ware (1675-1750) was found only above 80 cm. Despite this layering there is some evidence of mixing low in the section. In spit 11 (100-110 cm depth) Midland Yellow Ware co-exists with a clay pipe bowl and medieval pottery, suggesting that there might have been mixing as a result of cultivation.

At the bottom of the pit is a layer of flat skerry stones with bones, red clay tiles and large pieces of pottery underneath and directly on the basal red Triassic mudstone. Most of the pottery is Midland Yellow Ware, with some pieces of Midland Black Ware, Sandy Coarse Earthenware and Medieval. The age ranges of the pottery types overlap in the second half of the 16th C. This and the size and freshness of the breaks in the sherds seem to indicate that this material was deposited close to source and that they give a date for this basal surface.