

**LM01**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT ON**

**19, ST MARY'S ROAD**

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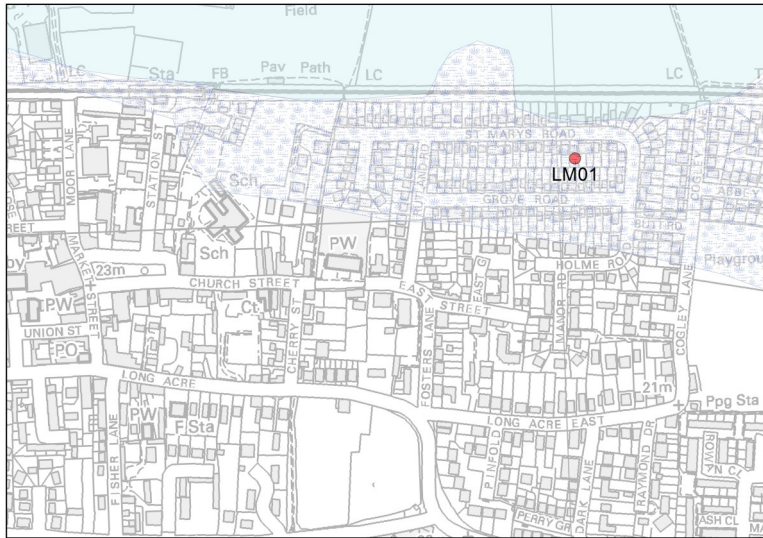
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**LM01**  
**19, ST MARY'S ROAD**

**SITE HISTORY**

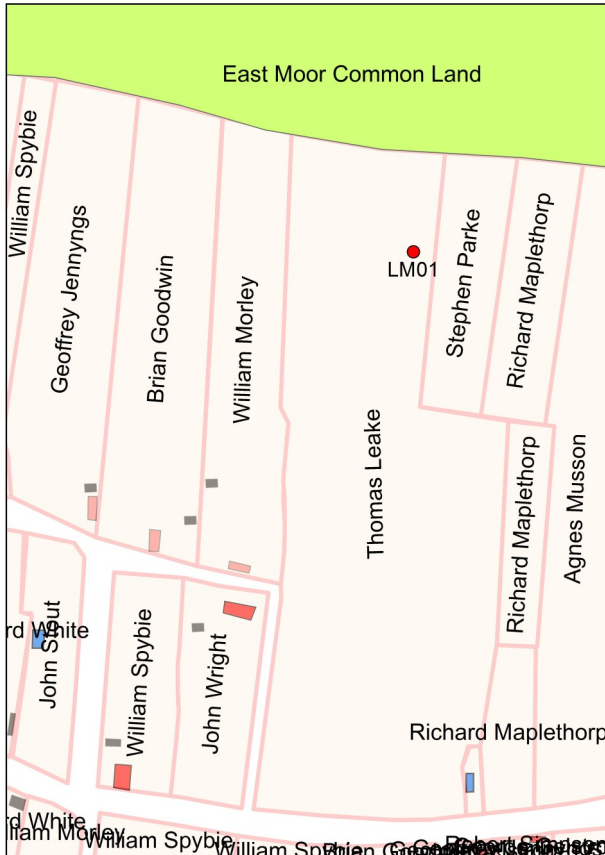


*Modern O.S. map showing the edge of the lake deposit (in blue) as shown on the BGS 1: 50,000 scale geological map No 126 for Nottingham. The pit showed that the lake margin lies further to the south. OS Licence No 0100031673*

The code for this pit indicates it is thought to fall within the area of the marshy margin of the prehistoric glacial lake surrounding Parson's Hill, to the north. Our estimate of the extents of lake (blue) and marshland (blue hummocks) is shown on map 1.

**1586**

The most important landholder was the lord of the manor, Brian Stapleton, but the estate survey reveals that he had leased it a relative, Thomas Leake. As he was an absentee landlord living in Derbyshire the estate was run for him by his bailiff, William Stapleton, probably related to Brian. He lived on Husband Street. Leake farmed a substantial amount of

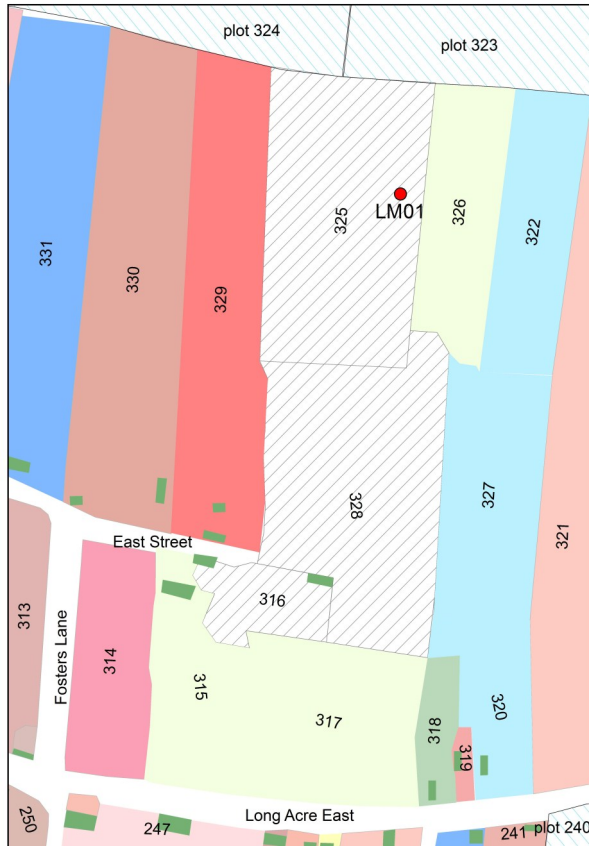


*Conjectural map for 1586*

land directly (i.e. not leased to a tenant) which was known as 'domain' (demesne) land. It comprised some 280 acres of strips in the open fields scattered throughout the parish. He held another 150 acres. These were 28 'closes' – enclosed parcels of meadow or pasture land independent of the common fields, which he had the freedom to farm as he wished. LM01 is on one of the large enclosures, called "Cow Close", designated in the survey as pasture which Leake would have used for grazing. It was at the north end of a long plot stretching from what is now the railway to Long Acre East, and then called Husband Street (street of the farmers).

**1776**

Leake's plot was shortened by 1776 and was held by Joseph Askew. His farmhouse (Plot 316) stood at the southern end of this plot roughly in the garden of what is now 10 Manor Road. Askew held about 70 acres and was noted as a farmer in the 1795 trade's directory. The 1776 estate survey descriptions imply that at least half of his land was grazing. Plots 325 and 328 still carried the name "Cow Close".



Map for 1776



Tithe map of 1841, with detail transcribed onto the modern map



O.S map for 1883

### 1841

Leake's 1776 plot survived relatively unaltered and in 1841 went under the name "Wheatley's Homestead" but had no house. It was in the occupation of John Horsepool jnr. He had a total holding of about 76 acres of arable and 10 of pasture. There is no mention of John jnr having a house; he probably still lived at home. Most of the Horsepool family were farmers and butchers.

### 1883

The 1883 map shows much the same enclosure. Note the pond, presumably a sign of permanent pasture and perhaps that the water table (Lake Margin) is relatively shallow. The pattern was unchanged by 1910.

### 1960s

Church Farm Estate, of which St Mary's Road is part, was built in the 1950s and 1960s on undeveloped farm land.

## LM01

### LOCATION AND PROTOCOL

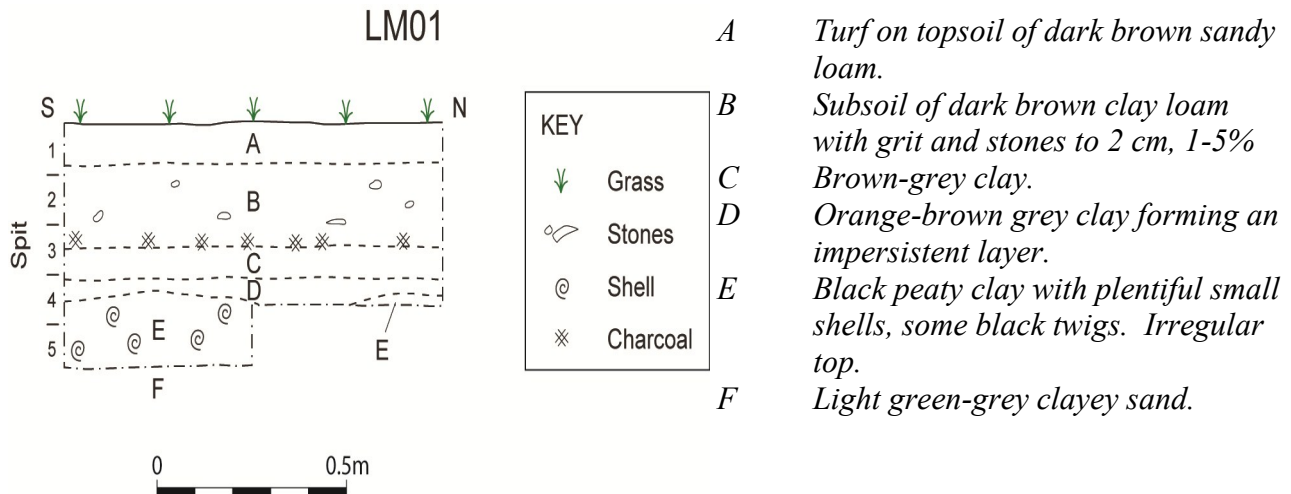
<b>NGR</b>	471010.340065
<b>Height OD (mid point rim of N face)</b>	20.722 m [error 0.019 m]
<b>Dig dates</b>	10 – 11 Oct 2012
<b>Pit site</b>	Rear lawn of garden.
<b>Pit protocol</b>	1-metre pit, 10 cm spits, all spits sieved. Dug to 35 cm, then taken to 50 cm in a square slot, 14 cm deep dug in the SW corner. Pit orientated N-S. North face sections only described and measured unless otherwise stated. Photographs taken facing north unless otherwise stated.

## LM01 ANALYSIS OF RESULTS

### Description of pit

This is a very shallow section of soil over the Bingham lake deposit.

- Topsoil to 8 cm
- Subsoil to 25 cm
- Lake clays



IMG\_1947 View N at 20 cm within the topsoil

IMG\_1949 View N at c 30 cm near the bottom of the upper clay layer beneath the topsoil.

The topsoil is turf on dark brown sandy loam

The subsoil is dark brown clay loam with grit and stones to 2 cm making up less than 5%. There is a marked layer of charcoal at the bottom of this context.

The lake clay lies below the charcoal layer. The upper 5cm is brown-grey clay. This overlies an impersistent layer 3 – 5 cm thick of orange-brown-grey clay, which is on top of a black peaty clay with plentiful mollusc shells and charcoal twigs. There are one or two 10 cm skerry stones. The top is irregular. This unit is no more than 15 cm thick and overlies light grey clayey sand.

### Finds

Nearly all the finds were collected from the top 25 cm, with very few in the 10 cm below this and



*IMG\_1951 view N of north wall. Final depth showing the dark organic clay at the bottom of the pit.*

*IMG\_1952 View west, final depth. Sondage on the left dug down to the light-green-grey clayey sand.*

above the black peaty clay that is clearly the lake margin deposit.

The building materials include brick, roof tile, slate, plaster, concrete and black-glazed tile. The black glazed tile is similar to some found elsewhere which are believed might be post medieval. The puzzle is the slate because the modern roofing material here is not slate. Apart from this and the black-glazed tile everything else could be attributed to the modern building phase. One piece of brick was found in the clay layer.

Coal was found at all levels down to and including the clay layer. The only metal is a nail, but there is some clinker. A decayed wooden plug or a piece of leather was found at the bottom of the subsoil.

13 clay pipes stems and bowl fragments were found. 5 of them were clearly mid 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> C and one bowl fragment could be attributed fairly closely to 1850 – 1900. There were 6 stem fragments that were older. Some were clearly 1600-1749, but the others, while the clay was tending towards brown and the hole fairly wide, were thinner than they would be for 17<sup>th</sup> pipes. One good bowl is late 17<sup>th</sup> to early 18<sup>th</sup> C. It is likely that the stems also date from this period.

12 pieces of glass were found. Above the charcoal layer they were modern bottle and window glass, but the presence of clear window glass 1/16th inch thick and a fragment of an aqua bottle suggests early rather than late 20th C which conflicts with the date of building of the current housing estate. One piece of clear ridged resembled 20<sup>th</sup> C bathroom window glass. Below the charcoal two pieces of green bottle glass with a heavy patina cannot be dated.

The Unglazed Red Earthenware, likely to be plant pots, is limited to the top 20 cm.

14 sherds of modern pottery were found. All except one were from the topsoil and subsoil, above 25cm. Included was a sherd of Cane-coloured Ware that might be Mocha Ware. Being glazed on both sides and fairly thin it could be either Cane-coloured fine ware or from a Mocha Ware jug or tankard. There were two transfer printed sherds. These were from different vessels; one was blue and white, the other pale blue and white. They were being made from late in the 18th C, but the pale blue variety came in only in about 1800. Both were being made into the 20th C. Most of the remainder were White Ware sherds; one from a rim of a utilitarian vessel. There were three sherds, however, that could be Staffordshire White salt-glaze Stoneware. This was very common

in the period 1720-1780. However, there is some uncertainty about the identification of these sherds. The only sherds from beneath the subsoil in the top layer of the underlying lake deposits was a rope coil feature from a decorative vessel. It had a yellow glaze and could not be fitted in any classification. It is likely to be 19th C. Finally, one sherd had no glaze and could not be identified. It may even be a post-medieval fabric.

There were only two small pieces of stoneware. Both were body sherds and it was not possible to tell the original vessel. However, one was dated 1720 –1790 and made in Nottingham and the other a little later, 1760-1840, and made in Derbyshire. Both were found at the bottom of the subsoil.

The coarse earthenware was mainly Pink-bodied black Glazed Coarse Earthenware (3) with two Red-bodied Black Glazed and one Brown Glazed. They were found in spit 3 in both the subsoil and the underlying clay. Mostly they were small body sherds with dark brown glaze and it was not possible to be sure of the nature of the original vessel, but one red-bodied sherd with a black glaze was from a pancheon. This is the most common form for coarse earthenware.

Three sherds of Mottled Ware and Black Slipware were found near the bottom of the subsoil and in the underlying clay. One Mottled Ware sherd was a base to a chamber pot. The Black slipware was part of a bowl.

### **Interpretation**

The lake deposit of black peaty clay, which rests above light green-grey clayey sand, contains abundant small molluscs (water snails), which may be either terrestrial, marginal or deep water. They have not been identified, but all three environments were identified where the molluscs were found elsewhere. The implication is that this was at the lake edge and may not have been used for agriculture until it was covered by the clay deposits

The lake deposit is covered by two clay layers that are thought also to be either part of the lake deposit or a more recent sedimentary deposit. These are contexts C and D. At the top of C is a layer of charcoal. The soil profile above the charcoal layer suggests that it is a natural sequence of subsoil and topsoil with, perhaps, only the turf being imported. Beneath the charcoal layer (25 cm depth) the two clay layers (contexts C and D) seem to be natural deposits but pottery, clay pipes, glass and other materials were found in the brown-grey clay (context C). The glass bottle fragments have a heavy patina from chemical reaction with the soil and could be pre-19th C. Sherds of stoneware, coarse earthenware, Mottled Ware and one glazed modern type were present in the underlying orange-brown-grey clay (context D). This seems to suggest that these two sediment deposits were laid down onto the black peaty lake deposit at the edge of the lake, maybe by outwash during periods of heavy rain. The pottery and clay pipes may have been deposited on the sediment in manure scatters. Significantly, all the clay pipe stems found in context C date from the 17th to mid 18th C. No dated clay pipe bowls have been found anywhere in Bingham from before 1620 and most early ones are from the mid 17th C.

The layer of charcoal is significant. It suggests that there may have been a fire on the ground surface. The clay pipe stems from above this layer are nearly all dated post mid 18th C. However, one bowl fragment from just above the charcoal layer could be fixed at 1675 to 1725. This supports the conclusion that this ground surface was in use in the late 17th C.

There is a crude stratigraphy in the succession above the peaty clay. Modern pottery, which ranges in age from early 18th to mid 20th C extends down to 30 cm; post-medieval pottery including the stoneware and coarse earthenware was found slightly overlapping this from 20 to 40 cm depth. The two stoneware sherds range through the 18th to early 19th C, though there is no certainty about the age range for the coarse earthenware.

The enclosed pottery in the subsoil and topsoil, therefore, indicates continued activity in this area from the late 17<sup>th</sup> C to modern times, though most of the material found was probably deposited with farmyard manure and does not indicate a habitation nearby until the mid 20<sup>th</sup> C when the neighbouring house was built.