

LMCB05

ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT ON

No 6 CHURCH CLOSE

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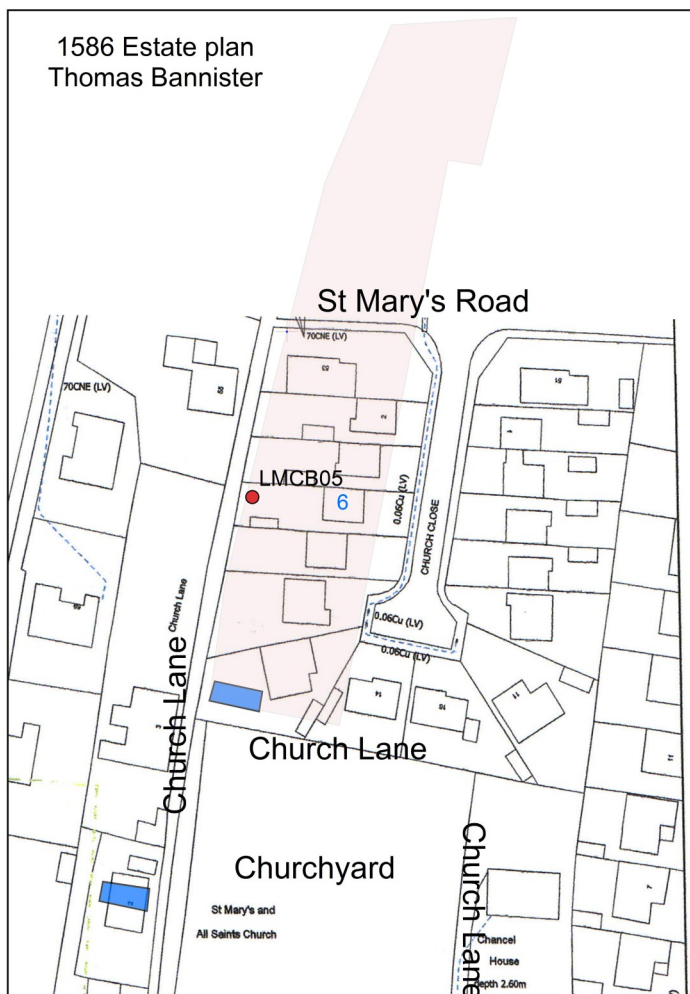
LMCB05 6 CHURCH CLOSE

SITE HISTORY

Compared with some pit locations, the site on which pit LMCB05 was excavated has a fairly straightforward site history. Church Close is part of a green field housing development, Church Farm estate, built in the 1960s. Prior to that it may have been farmland, probably farmed from East Grove Farm, on East Street. Or the original close may have survived in the occupation of someone of whose name we have no record. Despite many discussions with local people we have failed to find any reference to Church Farm.

From medieval through to the tithe map, number 6 has been part of the same plot of land with an unchanging boundary. From the middle ages it has been part of the large estate of Bingham owned successively by the families de Bingham, Stapleton, Stanhope (Earls of Chesterfield) and Herbert

(Earls of Carnarvon). From 1925 it was owned by the Crown Estate who sold the land to build the Church Farm Estate to the building company Enness.



1586

Our conjectural map of Bingham for 1586 shows the location of plot 43 (our number) rented by Thomas Banister, a cottager. His holding was described as a cottage (in blue on the plan) and a croft. He held no other land or strips in the open fields. He would have been largely self-sufficient, growing his own crops, and may have worked for the Lord of the manor, Bryan Stapleton as well.

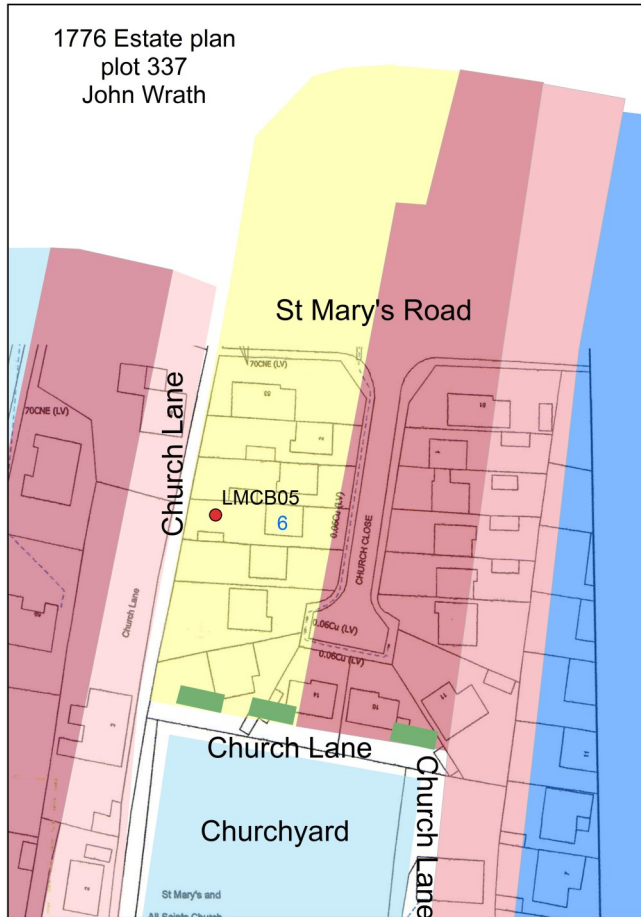
1776

The same plot had by now passed to John Wrath (plot number 337). It is now described as "house and garden". Wrath also held about 7.5 acres of grazing in Far Little Moor, Near Little Moor and East Meadow, all of which he could easily reach via Church Lane and across what is now Butt Field. In 1779 a John Wroth was listed in the trades directory as being a miller. Whether this was a misspelling of Wrath is not known. The miller in 1776 was John Lee.

1841

By 1841 Plot 200 occupied the area of the

The pale pink area is the plot rented by Thomas Bannister in 1586. At the time it is thought that a track called Church Lane went all round the churchyard. The blue rectangle nearest to LMCB05 is the postulated position of the house, which might have had an entrance onto the part of Church Lane that followed the back of the church yard. By permission of Western Power

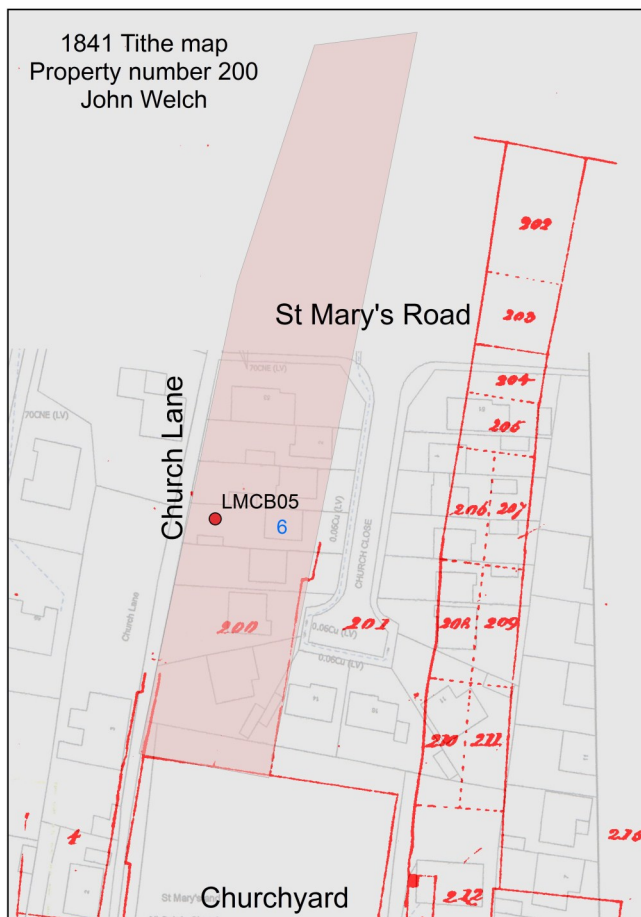


ancient boundary and was in the occupation of John Welch. In the 1841 census John Welch was recorded as a plumber living on Long Acre. His house and fold yard were at what is now 21 Long Acre, one of the oldest houses in Bingham. He held a block of fields and grazing rights in several fields around the parish, amounting to around 20 acres in all. It would appear that Welch was a part-time farmer as well as a plumber.

Similarly, plot 201, on the east, was a garden piece occupied by William Hemstock who was the miller on Tythby Road and lived at 21 Church Street. Clearly both plots were large allotments in modern parlance.

Post 1841

We have no information on ownership or occupancy or land use after 1841. The Church Farm Estate was built in 1964/65.



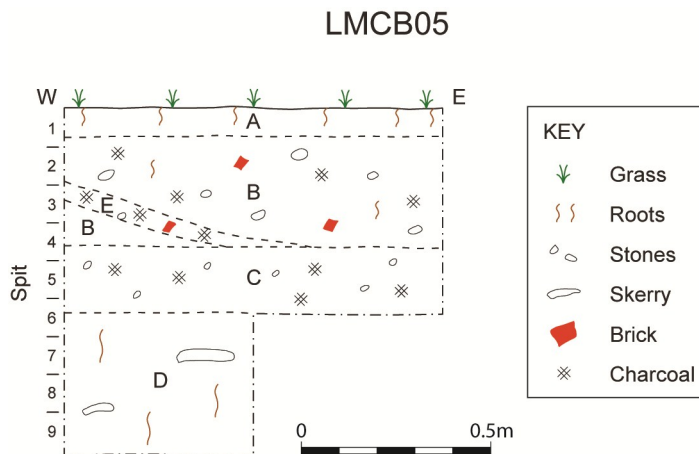
The upper diagram shows the plot as rented in 1776. At this time three houses are shown along the part of Church Lane that runs at the back of the church yard. In 1841 this plot was rented by John Welch. There are no houses shown here at this time.

LMCB05

FIELD REPORT

NGR	470737.340064 (mid point north edge)
Height OD (mid point north edge)	21.909 m
Dig dates	12 th June 2013
Pit site	Back lawn to modern housing
Pit protocol	1-metre pit, 10 cm spits, all sieved. A 50 cm square sondage dug from 55 cm in the NW corner with a 25 x 25 cm slot in that to reach the maximum depth of 90 cm.

LMCB05 ANALYSIS OF RESULTS



- A** Topsoil of dark brown silty loam beneath turf
- B** Made ground of dark brown silty loam with roots, rounded stones to 4 cm, brick fragments to 2 cm, angular sandstone, charcoal and carbonised roots. Inclusions c 5%. Layering in the NW corner (E) at angle to the horizontal is defined by increase in charcoal content.
- C** Subsoil of grey-brown silty-sandy clay loam with abundant charcoal/carbonised roots, small sandstone pebbles.
- D** Brown fluvial sand, structureless, tabular skerry cobbles to 15 cm. Many vertical roots, some carbonised. Fossil animal teeth.
- E** Oblique layer with plentiful charcoal, brick pieces and stones. Unknown origin, but possibly an artefact of the way the made ground was tipped.



IMG_2361 LMCB05. North face showing inclined layering in the NW corner marked by increase in charcoal. Brown sand at the bottom of the pit.

Description of pit

This house, like all those nearby, is relatively recently built and this is reflected in the soil profile:

Topsoil to 8 to 10cm
 Made ground to 37 cm
 Topsoil/subsoil to 57 cm
 Fluvial sand

The upper topsoil layer of dark brown silty loam is likely to have been imported during landscaping after the completion of the new build.

The made ground is a similar dark brown silty loam but it has abundant building rubble. The charcoal-rich part has inclined layering and clearly has been re-deposited. This unit from about 30 cm down was very hard and compacted possibly by machinery during building work. It all seems to have been re-deposited during or after building. The base of the made ground is sharp and it overlies grey-brown silty-sandy clay loam. This does not vary significantly downwards and at 57cm depth it overlies fluvial sand. Compositionally the soil layer is consistent with it having been derived from the underlying sand. There is no clear distinction between a topsoil and subsoil. It is possible that some of the topsoil here was stripped off during building work. It is very hard and compacted possibly by loading by heavy equipment during building.

The fluvial deposit is orange-brown sand with tabular skerry stones to 15 cm and some smaller pebbles. There is no discernible layering. The top boundary is irregular, convoluted and wispy and it had roots in it. Fossil teeth were found in it. Dug to 92 cm in NW corner to test depth. Not bottomed.

Finds

Most of the finds were collected from a range of depths to just below the upper 40

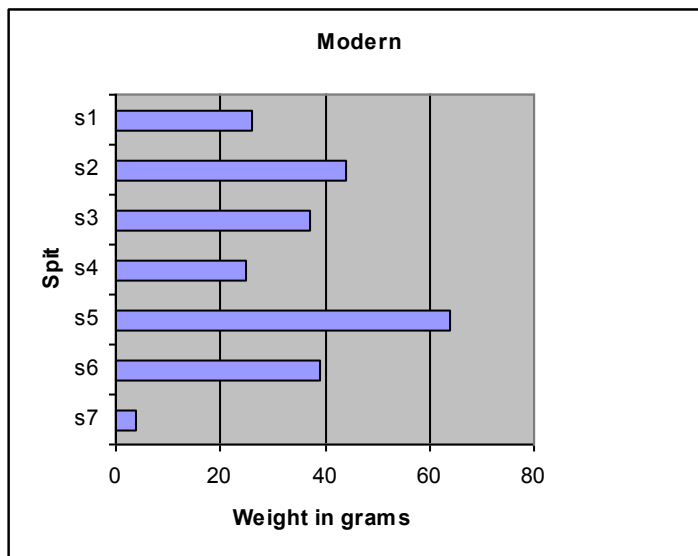
cm of topsoil and made ground. This upper level is clearly re-deposited and unreliable as a guide to the history of the finds at this site. Finds, however, are found down to the upper surface of the sand deposit at the bottom of the pit.



IMG_2363. LMCB05 NW corner showing complex relations between sand (beneath) and soil layer above.

Building materials include brick, slate and floor tile. The metallic pieces include a door hinge, light fitting and a grooved wheel runner. These were collected from the top 60 cm and are clearly modern. Miscellaneous items, which were retrieved entirely from the made ground include a school slate, clearly marked for school use and oyster shells, which are likely to be 19th C. There were also some small snail shells, a piece of coal and a shaped pebble.

28 fragments of glass were found at depths down to 70 cm. Two of these were from within the fluvial sand. They were from a flat-sided aqua bottle. All the rest were above the sand. The range was limited and it is likely that several pieces were from the same bottle. This is an aqua, octagonal bottle, possibly for sauce. Besides these there were clear bottles and jars, but only two pieces from green bottles. Three pieces of thin, clear window glass (1/16th to 3/32nd inch thick) were retrieved. Two pieces of molten glass indicate a fire.



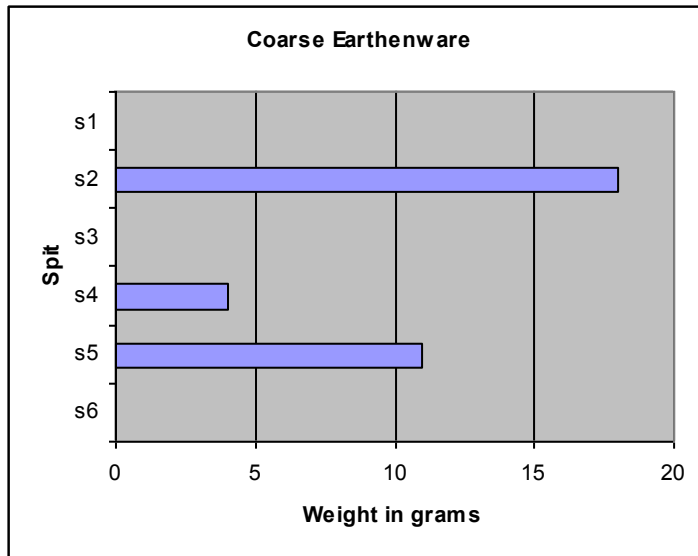
It is difficult to date these pieces, but they could all be 20th C. The only exception is the thin window glass, which might be earlier and related to earlier buildings in this area.

20 pieces of clay pipe were found. All except one were from the late 18th and 19th centuries. Fragments of mouthpieces date to the mid 19th C. One stem piece only was from the late 17th to early 18th centuries.

Among the pottery there were 52 sherds of Modern, 9 of stoneware and 5 Unglazed

Red Earthenware. These were found at all levels, but mostly in the top 50 cm. The finds categorized as from spit 7 were found at the interface between the fluvial sand and the subsoil above it. The stoneware was all late 19th to 20th C and included fragments of bowls, a pancheon, jar, stew-pot, a bottle and a preserving jar. The date range was from 18th C to quite late. Some were 1850-1950, one or two were 20th C.

The glazed modern pottery similarly had a wide date range. About 65% was made up of White Ware (40%) and Transfer Print (25%). The Transfer Print was divided mainly between pale blue



and white, and Willow pattern, but there was a green and white sherd. The sherds were from cups, saucers, plates and bowls. More unusual sherds include Staffordshire White Salt-glaze Stoneware (1720-1780) of which there was a single sherd, a hand painted possibly 18th C sherd, some heavy duty kitchen ware, possibly a storage jar which is likely to be post 1850 and some sherds of a white porcelain cup. This could be any date after about 1730. Two sherds were thought to be Flow Blue, a mid 19th C ware type. The majority of the sherds were 19th C or younger with a few that were clearly 18th C.

There were two sherds of post-medieval pottery: Mottled Ware from spit 2 and Coarse Black Ware from spit 6. A single sherd of Nottingham Green Glaze dated 1250-1350 was found at the bottom of the pit.

Interpretation

The top 37cm of the soil sequence has been re-deposited at the site after building in the 1960s, but it may not have come from far; possibly no further than the place where the modern house stands. The very hard compacted nature of the made ground at and below 30 cm suggests compaction by a machine, probably during building work. It is likely then that the made ground came in two phases.

The soil beneath the made ground is likely to be the original topsoil/subsoil, but it has been disturbed during building and some of the content will reflect the building phase. Only near the bottom of the sequence, just above the fluvial sand, is it likely that we have the original content. It is here that the solitary medieval sherd is present. However, there is Modern pottery at this depth, which might indicate soil disturbance of some kind. Also, two pieces of glass in the sand are modern. The medieval sherds hints at pre-Black Death activity hereabouts.

The sand beneath the soil is not obviously bedded, but most resembles a river deposit. There is no pottery in it but there are teeth, which are likely to be fossil teeth. There are two pieces of glass also in the upper part of the sand and this is likely to be 20th C. The sand also has vertical rootlets, suggesting that it was vegetated at some time.

The situation of this pit is close to the churchyard and to the edge of the lake deposit. The sand may well have been deposited in a river or stream draining into the lake. It is therefore unlikely that there would have been any building on this site before modern times. However, there are records of cottages along the boundary of the churchyard in the 1586 and 1776 surveys and this pit site is within the plot of land associated with these cottages. It is interesting then that apart from one sherd of medieval pottery there is nothing in this pit older than 18th C. There is no physical evidence of the 1586 cottage here.

The abundance of finds culminates in the Modern period, when most of them are clearly 19th C. The porcelain, though having a date range that starts early in the 17th C could well be 19th C. Only the Staffordshire White Salt-glaze Stoneware is clearly 18th C. There was one sherd of this, but much of the brown stoneware and the two post-medieval sherds are also 18th C. This

confirms the activity shown here on the 1776 map. The problem, though, is with the other modern pottery. There are no signs of a habitation hereabouts on the tithe map, yet most of the pottery is 19th C. In fact there is sufficient here to suggest that there may be a domestic rubbish dump nearby. An explanation could be in the fabric types found. They mostly look like they are from the first half of the 19th C, the Transfer Print in particular is mainly pale blue and white and there is a dark green and white, which is typically mid 19th C. This is still close to the date of the tithe map and it is not certain that the 19th C pottery can all be attributed to before the date of this map. There is, therefore, no clear explanation why this modern pottery should be here.