

O02

ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT ON

8 MELVYN DRIVE

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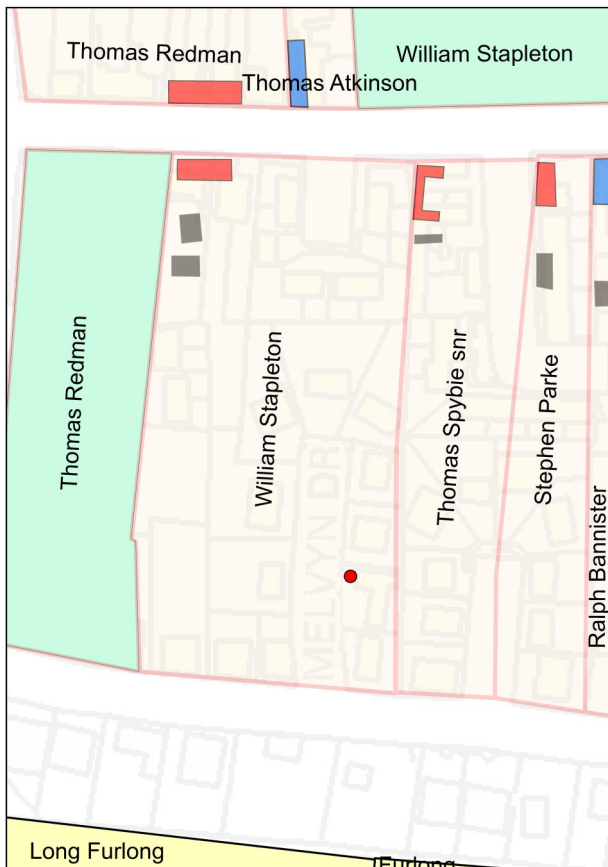
MELVYN DRIVE.

SITE HISTORY

Melvyn Drive was built on a green field site about 1960 by a builder named Frank Sturtivant. Until that development the site has been part of a large parcel of land usually attached to a farmstead.

1586

In 1586 it was part of the farmstead of William Stapleton. Bryan Stapleton, of Carlton in Yorkshire, owned most of the Bingham Estate, before selling to Sir John Stanhope in 1590. Stapleton leased the estate to Thomas Leake who, as an absentee landlord, employed William Stapleton as



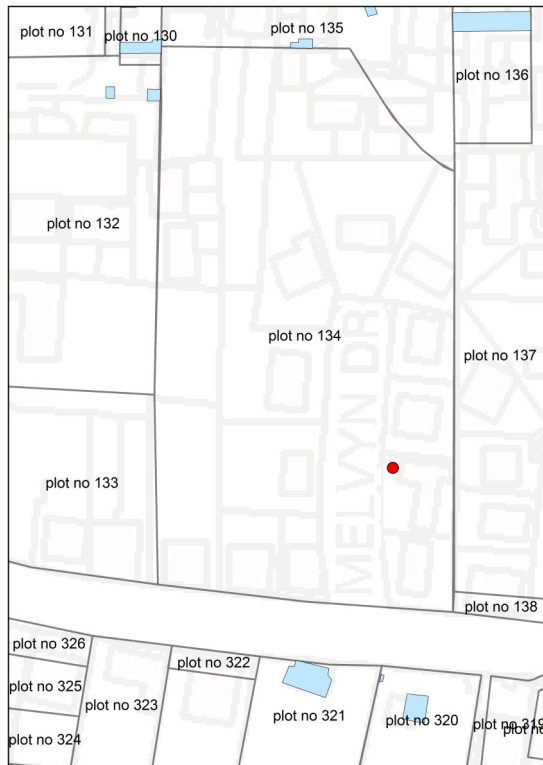
Conjectural map for 1586. Red dot is the pit site. OS Licence No 0100031673



Map for 1776. Red dot is the pit site

his bailiff. We think William may have been related to Bryan.

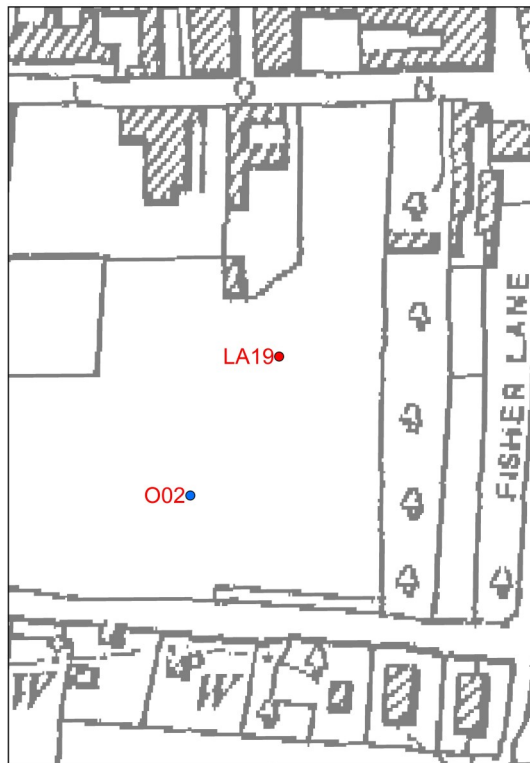
In the manorial survey William was listed as holding “a messuage or tenement and [unknown number] bovates land with two barns and other buildings, two closes called costes or crofts both together”. The plot on the opposite side of Long Acre was described as occupied by William and was a “small pasture occupied by Bailiff of Manor”. William was a tenant farmer in his own right and also would have managed the “domain” land on behalf of Thomas Leake, including the then derelict manor house in the Market Place. Long Acre was known then as Husband Street – the street of the farmers - as most tenant farmers, including all of William’s neighbours, lived on the



Tithe map for 1841 on a modern base.



O.S. Map for 1883



O.S. map for 1901 showing the comparative locations of LA 19 and O02



O.S. map for 1910.

street.

1776

In 1776 a very similar set of boundaries were in place. William Horsepool, noted in the trades' directory as a butcher occupied the plot on which pit O02 was dug. As well as his 3½ acres of homestead, he rented a further 16 acres of meadow and moorland from the Chesterfield Estate, presumably for raising stock. The Horsepools were a major family in Bingham until the late 19th century as farmers and butchers.

Plot 134 in 1841 shows a relatively unchanged holding, described as "home close" and now in

the occupation of Mary Horsepool, along with plot 135, her homestead. She was a widow, presumably of William but we have no documentary evidence for that, and was a cottager. Her son who lived with her (with his family) was a butcher. She died in 1843.

1883

By 1883 an access road seems to have been driven through from Long Acre to the large plot, dividing the old plot 135 in two. By now the Horsepools had moved to other locations in the village.

1901/1910

By 1901 the plot had changed shape considerably. By 1901 some houses, among them Carnarvon House and Granby Villa, had been built followed, by 1910, by some houses along The Banks, including the Wesleyan Manses near Melvyn drive. The large plot was occupied by James Walker, builder and farmer, who built many Victorian and Edwardian houses in Bingham.

O02

LOCATION AND PROTOCOL

NGR	470339.339690
Height OD (mid point rim of N face)	28.852 m [error 0.032 m]
Dig dates	18-19th April 2012
Pit site	Lawn in front garden of 1960s house. Trees along the front boundary.
Pit protocol	1-metre pit, 10 cm spits. All spits sieved. Pit orientated N-S. North face sections only described and measured unless otherwise stated. Photographs taken facing north unless otherwise stated. Bottom of the pit was at 71 cm when a plastic sewerage pipe was encountered in the NE corner. The pipe in a trench was set in a bed of sand and gravel. The bottom was clay with some skerry, but it was not dug. It is likely that it was still in subsoil.

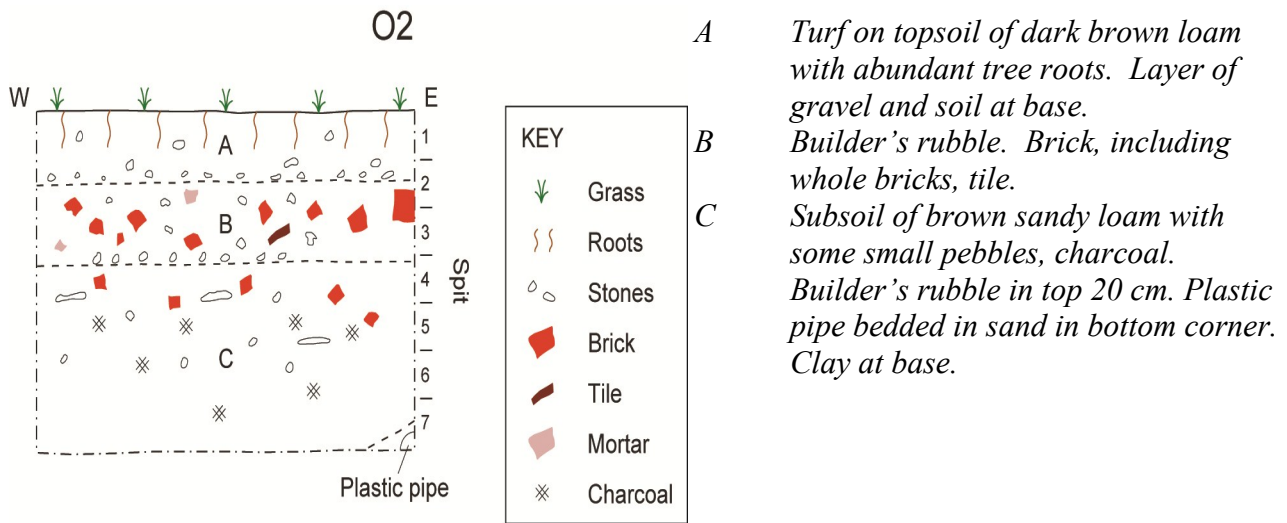
O02

ANALYSIS OF RESULTS

Description of pit

The pit was sited close to the house in a narrow front garden and encountered a lot of builder's rubble dating from the time the house was built in the 1960s. the sequence revealed was:

Top soil to 15 cm
Builder's rubble to 32 cm
Subsoil to 71 cm
Clay



IMG_1330 Top 10 cm showing roots in brown loam.

IMG_1332 Facing west showing a sandy layer at the top of the builder's rubble

The topsoil is dark brown loam with tree roots and a layer of gravel at the base.

The builder's rubble is mainly bricks, including whole bricks, green roof tile that is the same on the house, mortar and so on.



IMG_1333 East side showing bricks

The subsoil is brown sandy loam with small pebbles, charcoal and some rubble in the top 20 cm.

The clay at the bottom of the pit has skerry stones in it, which suggests that it is the weathered top of the basal glacial clay. However, a plastic pipe was encountered in the corner of the pit suggesting that it had been laid in a trench and that all the succession in this pit was made ground.

Finds

Only six finds were recorded from this pit. None of the building materials were recovered because they were all identifiable with the current building. The objects that were

collected include a rusting piece of iron of unidentifiable origin, a piece of bone, a flint that on examination is likely to be natural, a 19th C clay pipe stem, a sherd of modern Cane-coloured pottery from 1850 to 1950 and two pieces of Roman Grey Ware pottery. All except the Grey Ware were found in the upper 50 cm of disturbed ground. The Roman pottery was recovered from 60-70 cm depth and just above the base of the pit.

Interpretation of the results

The pit is sited so close to the house that the whole succession was likely to be disturbed and reflect the recent building activity. All except the Roman pottery was found in the top 50 cm and is likely to have been transported to the present site from elsewhere, though not far away. No finds of any antiquity were recovered from this upper layer.

Category	LA19	O02
Anglo-Saxon	1	
Bones and teeth		1
Building material	13	
Clay pipe	5	1
Coal	2	
Coarse earthenware	3	
Glass	6	
Medieval	14	
Metallic	8	1
Miscellaneous	3	
Modern pottery	17	1
Post medieval	4	
Prehistoric		1
Roman		2
Stoneware	5	
Unglazed Red Earthenware	2	
Wood	1	

Comparison of number of finds from the two pits LA19 and O02

Beneath 50 cm depth the subsoil might be *in situ* and it is from below this that the Roman pottery was recovered. However, a plastic pipe embedded in sand at the bottom of the pit shows that it was cut into, probably during recent building work. The Roman sherds are abraded and small, the larger being 21 gms. Neither could be dated. It is likely that the Roman pottery came to this site as a manure scatter during Roman agricultural activity. Roman pottery is not uncommon elsewhere in the built-up part of Bingham and is widespread in the surrounding fields, which were highly productive at that time. A villa is thought to have existed near Carnarvon Primary School and there are several sites in the parish where it is thought that there were small farms in the second to fourth centuries. This part of the East Midlands was well cultivated and regarded as an important grain growing area in support of the Roman Army. Bingham, it is thought, was part of this production system.

It is interesting to compare the finds collection of this pit with that for LA19, which was situated in the same field from 1901 until the recent housing development. Prior to

1901 (see the O.S. map for 1883) the two pits were on either side of a field boundary that can be traced back at least until 1586. Essentially, there is no comparison, which must reflect on a completely different history of usage, probably one in which the O02 field was used largely for pasture and the LA19 field was used for arable farming.