

O6

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT ON
21 COPELAND GROVE**

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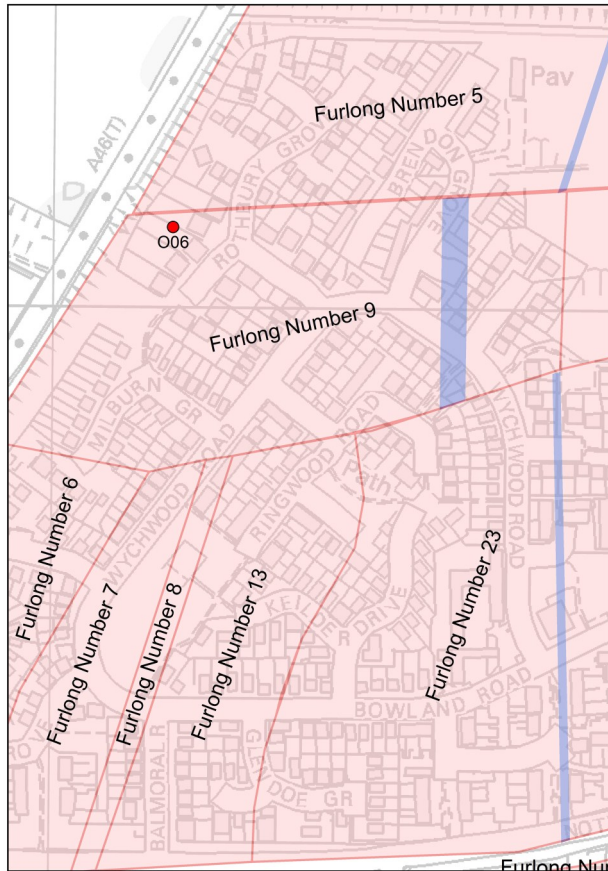
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O06
21 COPELAND GROVE

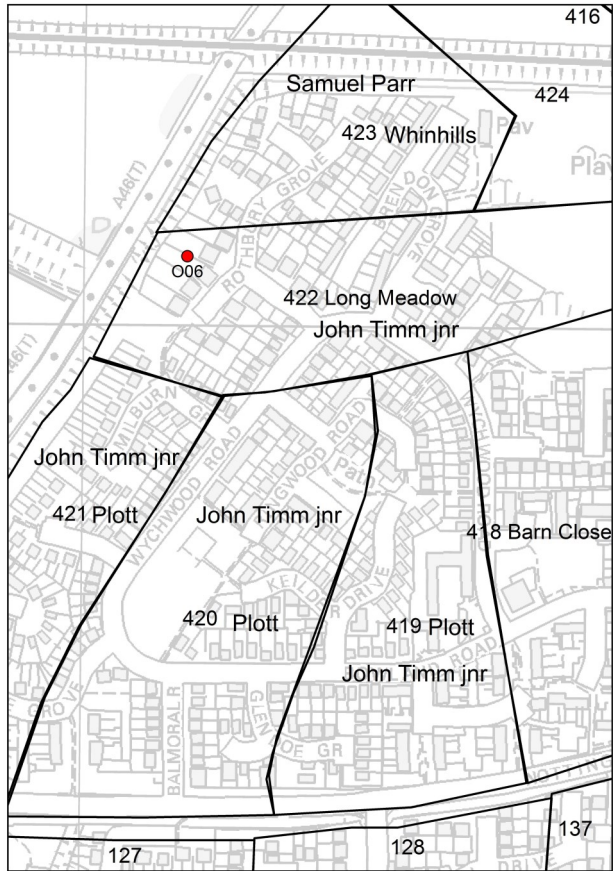
SITE HISTORY

This pit was at the western extremity of Bingham on a 1980's housing development known as Whinhill. Prior to the development the surrounding land had always been farmland. The now dismantled Great Northern and London and North Western Joint railway crossed the site on an embankment about 50 metres from the pit location.

Note: all maps on modern topography *OS Licence No 0100031673*



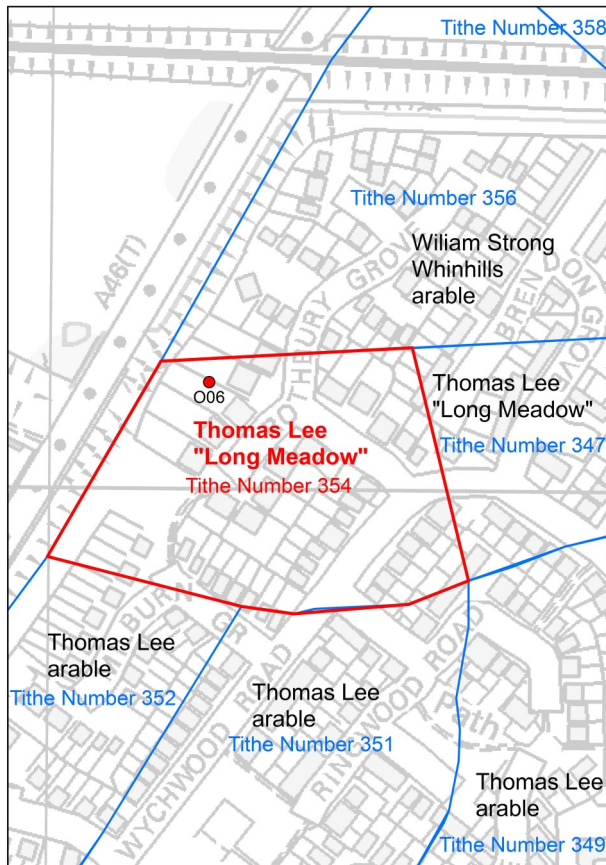
Conjectural map for 1586 showing the outline of the furlongs with Agnes Musson's stripa shown in blue



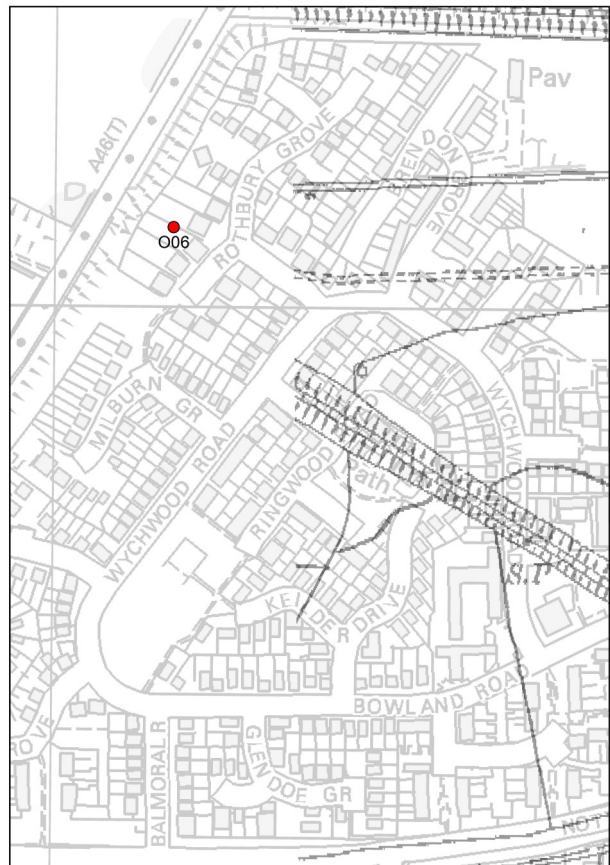
Map for 1776 compiled from the estate survey documents.

1586

In the 1500s the population of Bingham was largely divided into cottagers and farmers, the majority of whom were tenants of the Stapleton Estate which owned about 85% of Bingham. Cottagers tended to be self-sufficient and probably also worked for the lord of the manor on his open field strips. Farmers held strips in the open fields and usually a sizeable homestead in the village. The four open fields were divided into furlongs which in turn were divided into strips. Farmers would hold one or more strips in most furlongs, as an example the strips for Anges Musson are shown in blue on our conjectural map based on the Estate survey of the time. We cannot be too precise but it is likely that a strip worked by one of Thomas Redman, William Spybie or John Ludlam underlies the pit O06. We do know that all the strips in this furlong were arable.



Tithe map for 1841



Modern map showing the route of the railway embankment as shown on the 1910 map, now removed.

1776

The open fields had been enclosed well before 1756, the date of the next estate survey. Each farmer was allocated, presumably on the basis of ability to pay, a greater or lesser amount of land spread around the parish. John Timm jnr's farmstead was at what is now the rather fine Georgian farmhouse at 8 Newgate Street. He held over 100 acres of mixed arable and meadow land. The "plots" marked on the map were arable, but the land underlying the pit was meadowland.

1841

Although the basic boundaries of fields did not alter from 1776, some were divided, possibly to encourage more efficient grazing or some other farming improvement. Long Meadow was divided in this way. It can be seen that for much of its history the plot on which pit O06 was dug was grassland.

1910

In 1874/5 the Great Northern and London & North Western Railway was built across the site from Saxondale Junction toward Melton Mowbray. Our copy of the 1910 map does not extend the whole way to Saxondale Junction but it shows how close the embankment would have been to the site of our pit.

1935

The 1935 national land use map shows the whole of this area of Whinhill as being arable and it continued like that until the housing development of the 1980s. One of our members recalls (and has photographs) there being a field of oil-seed rape at the west end in 1978.

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FIELD REPORT

NGR 469077 340067

Height OD

Dig dates 17th June 2013. Abandoned after half a day.

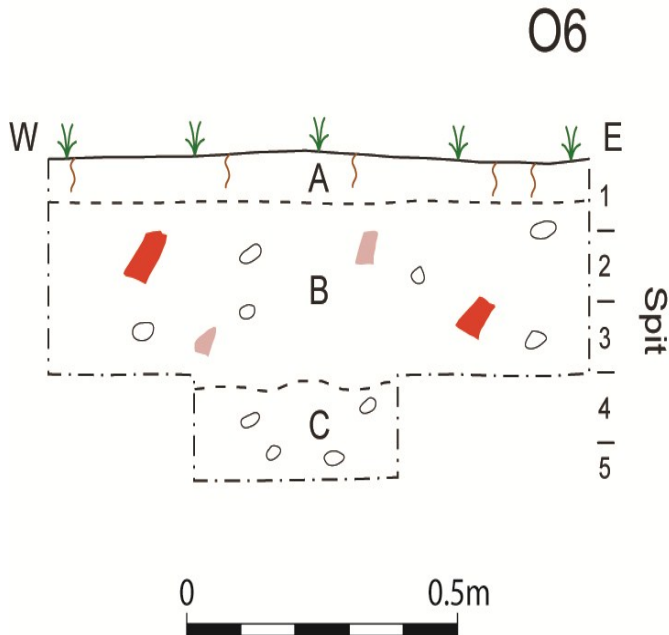
Pit site Back lawn of 1970-80s housing estate. Close to the Fosse Way. Sited on a mound rising from the house. David Boxer claimed to have found part of a Roman wall feature when gardening.

Pit protocol 1-metre test pit dug in 10 cm spits. Hand sorted because the clay was too heavy to pass through the sieve. Dig sondage 50 cm wide to c 30 cm depth on north side and a slot in the middle to about 45 cm to test for natural. Pit abandoned and no finds collected.

O6 ANALYSIS OF RESULTS

Description of pit

There was no undisturbed soil here. The sequence is:
 Turf and layer of loam topsoil beneath it to 6cm
 Imported mixed layer to 30 cm depth
 Basal clay



A Topsoil of dark brown clay soil beneath turf.

B Mixed dark brown clay soil and lumps red clay, brick, mortar, stones, plastic bag. Base is irregular.

C Red-brown clay with 1-3 cm grey, rounded sandstone and skerry. Make up to 20%.

KEY	
	Grass
	Roots
	Stones
	Brick
	Mortar



IMG_2365 view north. Full depth showing sondage along north side and the slot dug in the middle of it into till.

The turf was brought in during landscaping when the modern house was built.

Beneath it is a layer of red clay and dark brown clay soil with building debris in it. Red Triassic sandstone and white sandstone pebbles found in it.

The basal clay is red-brown with 1-3 cm grey sandstone pebbles, rounded skerries together making up about 20%.

Finds

Very little was recovered from this pit and nothing taken for recording in the database. Records on site show that small pieces of brick, mortar, Willow Pattern pottery and a plastic bag were found mostly in spit 2.

Interpretation

The expectation from this pit was that as it was alongside the Fosse Way there might be some indication of the Roman presence along the Fosse that is so strong to the north of here. In reality the ground was too much disturbed by the house building, the work of the A46 Fosse Way and the construction of a berm between the road and the housing development that any evidence of Roman activity would have been either buried deeply or destroyed if it had been there.