

SHC05 and SHC05E

ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORTS ON

15 FAIRFIELD STREET

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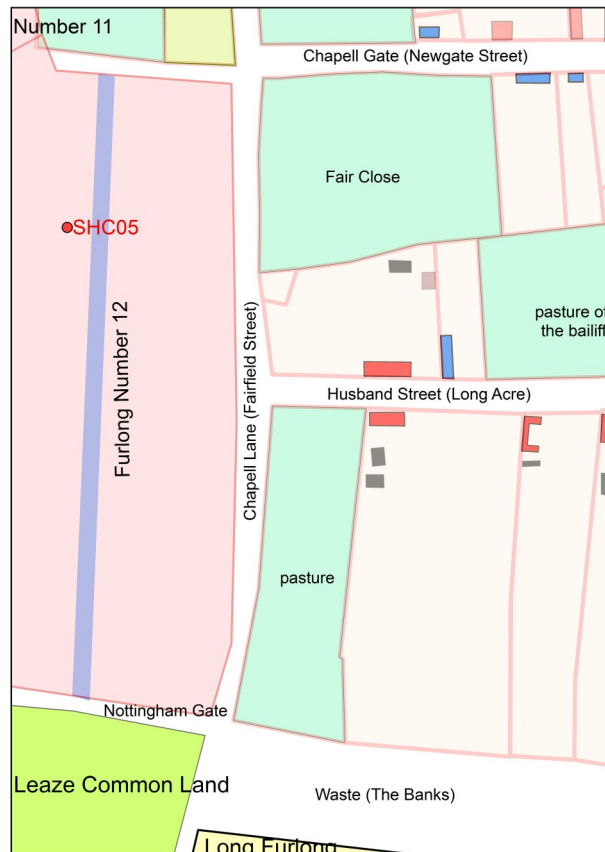
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SHC05 and SHC05E 15 FAIRFIELD STREET

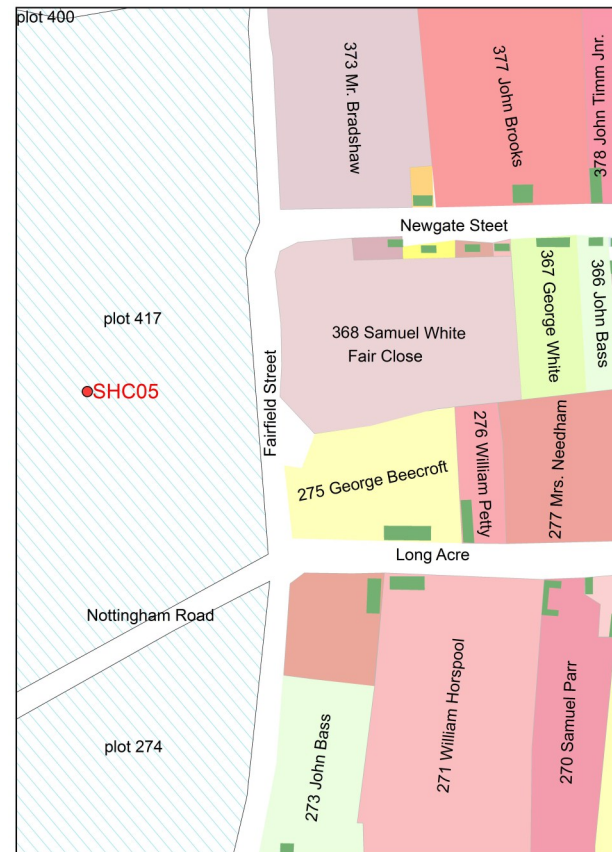
SITE HISTORY

Pits SHC05E and SHC05 were dug overlapping to explore the extent of a rubbish pit encountered in SHC05

1586



Conjectural map for 1586 made from contemporary manorial survey documents



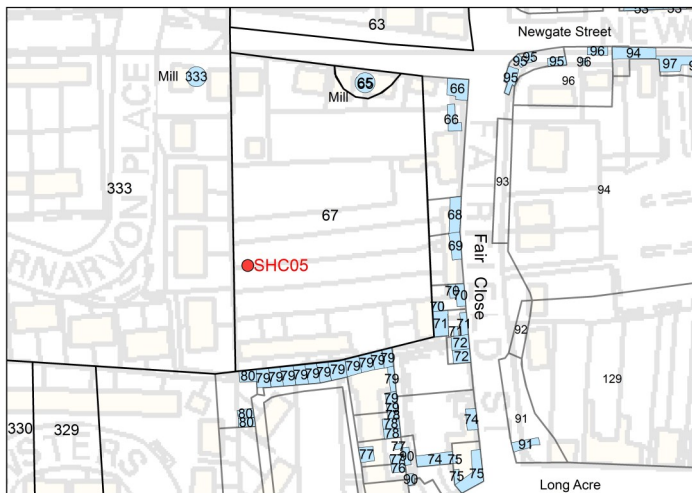
Map for 1776

Until the mid-18th century the area around Pit SHC05 was on the edge of the village and was undeveloped in terms of houses etc. The area was one of the furlongs that made up North Field. Bingham had four open fields on which tenant farmers had strips of land spread round the parish. The map shows (blue lines) the assumed position of the strips held by one of the farmers, Agnes Musson. We have not mapped any of the other strips. Fields would have been farmed communally, each furlong growing the same crop and in a rotation which all farmers followed. Most would have shared ploughs and teams of oxen. Most farmers lived on Husband Street, the modern Long Acre.

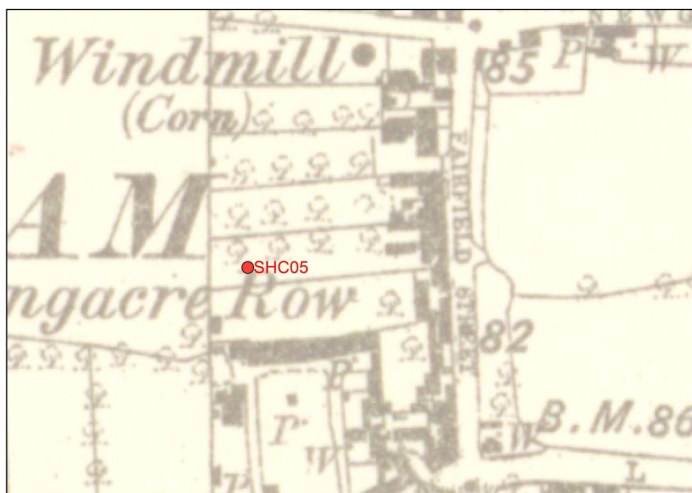
Over 90% of the parish was owned by Bryan Stapleton who sold it in late 16th C to Sir John Stanhope. The Stanhopes became Earls of Chesterfield and were succeeded by the Earls of Carnarvon. Only about 10% of the land was thus under other ownership. Some of the freeholds were blocks of land, but many strips were also freehold, randomly scattered amongst those that were tenanted.



Sanderson's map for 1835



Tithe map for 1841. Modern topography OS Licence No 0100031673



O.S. map for 1883

1776

We believe most of the open fields were enclosed in 1680-90, before the majority of the Parliamentary Enclosure Acts. The Estate Survey of 1776 showed plot 417 to be “sundry freeholds” with no plans or names. The survey was a detailed inventory of the land of the Earl of Chesterfield and was not concerned with identifying all the individual freeholds. Thus we have no idea of who owned individual parcels here. One might surmise that these freeholds (and others in the rest of the parish) were the result of negotiations to compensate for the surrender of freehold strips into composite holdings during the process of enclosure, which would probably have been driven by the Stanhopes.

1822

The deeds to 15 Fairfield Street reveal that the house was built in 1822 by William Beet the younger on land sold to him by his father. Beet the elder lived at what is now Anchor Cottage and owned much if not all of the area previously described as “sundry freeholds”.

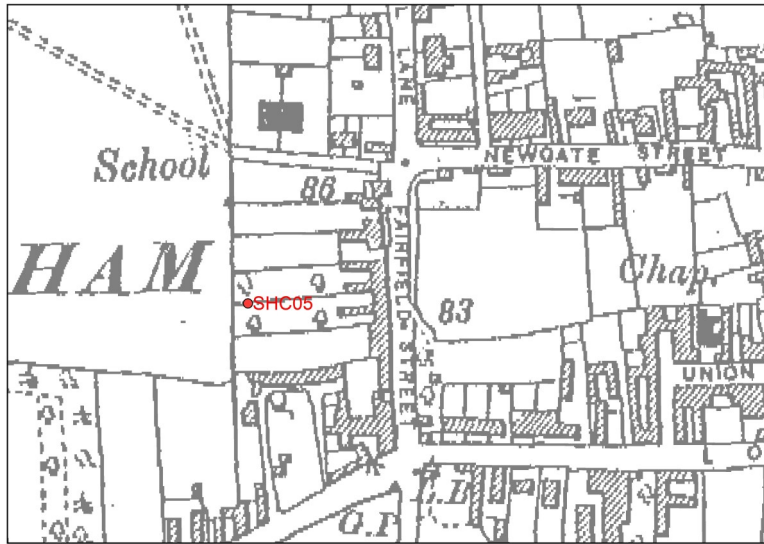
1835

Sanderson's map of 1835 shows the extent of the development around this time of the Fairfield Street/Nottingham Road area. Note the two windmills.

1841

Plot 67 was shown in the tithe apportionment as owned and occupied by the executors of Jane Beet. She had died in 1839 and was widow to the elder William. At this point the houses along the west side of Fairfield Street had small gardens and Jane's close was described as a garden piece. Number 15 Fairfield Street was then plot number 68 and occupied by Thomas Clark a builder succeeded, by 1861, by William Brown a joiner.

During the 19th century Fairfield Street was also variously known as Fair Close and Pond Street, the latter a reference to the pond on the east side. This was effectively a reservoir of sewerage and not cleaned out until later in the century. Note there were now two windmills on the north side of plot 67.



O.S. map for 1915



Modern O.S. map. Licence No 0100031673

1883

By 1883 the gardens had all been lengthened to the western boundary of what was plot 67. A reference in the deeds suggests this happened in December 1840, probably after the survey work for the tithe map was undertaken. It is interesting to note that that boundary seems to have survived from the time of the enclosures. The contents of pit SHC05 will only relate to the occupants of number 15 from whenever the gardens were extended. The 1883 map shows all the gardens along here as orchards.

The layout and the houses remain today.

SHC05

LOCATION AND PROTOCOL

NGR (SHC05)	470161.339931
Height OD (mid point rim of N face)	26.737 m [error 0.025 m]
Dig dates	10-11 th May 2012 (SHC05), 17 th October 2102 (SHC 05E)
Pit site	Vegetable garden, currently not cultivated at the back of the house.
Pit protocol	<p>The first 1-metre pit (SHC05) was dug in May. When it was realized that most of the pit had been dug into a rubbish pit it was decided to dig a second pit alongside it to explore the sidewall. This was dug to the west in October. The pits overlapped by c28 cm Details given here are for SHC05. The field description for the second pit is given below.</p> <p>10cm spits. All spits sieved. The whole pit excavated to 65 cm. Extended downwards in a 30 cm wide E-W slot along the northern face to a stone feature at 75 cm on the west. Pit extended down to 100cm in small pit in the middle of the this.</p> <p>Pit orientated N-S. North face sections only described and measured unless otherwise stated. Photographs taken facing north unless otherwise stated.</p>



IMG_1361 Starting SHC05

SHC05E

LOCATION AND PROTOCOL

Dig dates	17 th Oct 2012
Pit site	Vegetable garden, untended soil. The pit was sited to the west of SHC05 dug here in May 2012.
Pit protocol	1-mete pit. Topsoil not sieved, but some items retrieved. Subsoil was sieved at 10 cm intervals when digging the sidewall of the original pit. The pit fill was not sieved. A slot 45 cm wide dug along the N face with additional depth in a 45 cm square in the NW corner. Pit orientated N-S. North face sections only described and measured unless otherwise stated. Photographs taken facing north unless otherwise stated.

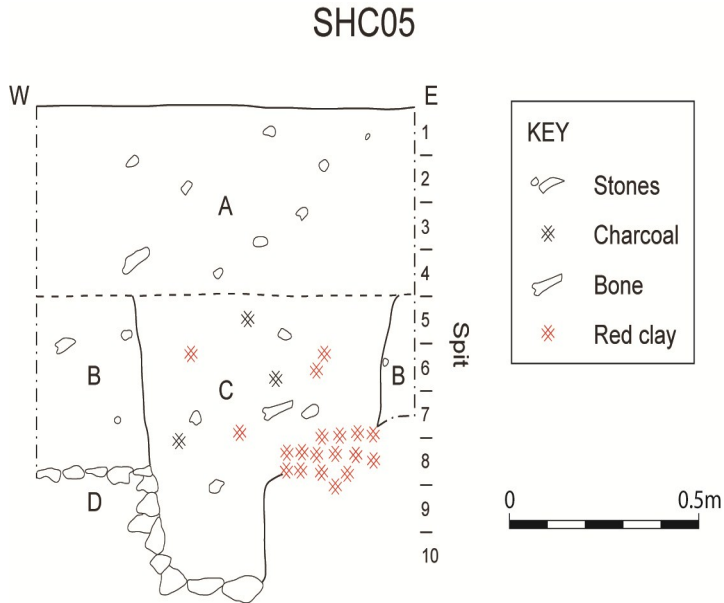
SHC05 and SHC05E

ANALYSIS OF RESULTS

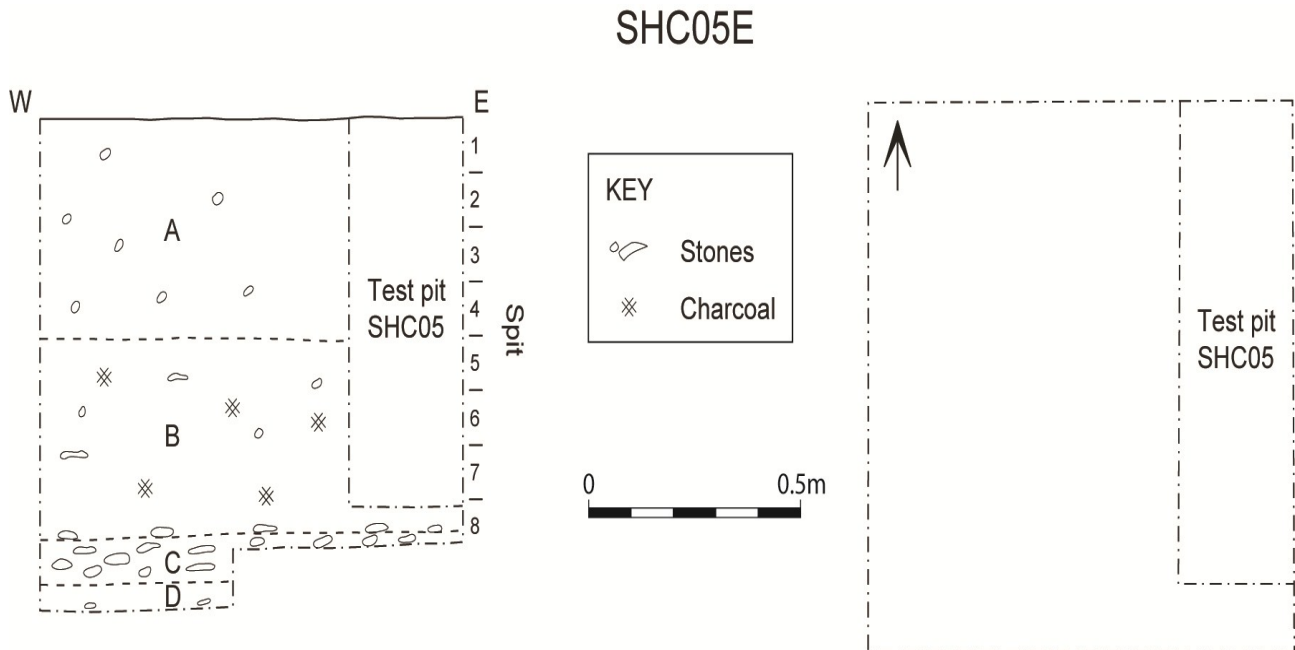
Description of pits

This is a well cultivated garden with a simple soil profile.

Topsoil to 40 cm
 Subsoil to 75 - 80 cm
 Rubbish pit below 40 cm extends down to 100 cm
 Stony basal layer



- A* Topsoil of dark brown-black loam with stones.
- B* Subsoil of grey-brown sandy loam with pebbles.
- C* Darker grey-brown sandy loam with stones, charcoal, bone, lumps stiff red-brown clay.
- D* Closely packed stones, skerry and some sandstone, grey-brown sandy loam in interstices. Orange-brown sand with stones at lowest excavated point.



- A* Topsoil of dark brown sandy loam with well rounded stones.
- B* Subsoil of brown-grey sandy clay with vertical carbonised rootlets and skerry pebbles up to 3 cm.
- C* Gravel and clayey sand. Hard packed with reddish brown skerry stones up to 3 cm.
- D* Brown, wet silty sand with sparse pebbles to 2 cm; include quartz and skerry.



IMG_1964 SHC05E view north at 45 cm showing the dark fill from the pit dug to the east.



IMG_1970 SHC05E View N. full depth. Old pit boundary visible in NE wall. New pit slot in NE. The dark area in the right hand side of the facing wall is the fill from pit SHC05.



IMG_1371 SHC05 Facing north. Rubbish pit excavated, pile of lumps of clay top right, compacted stones on left. Dark area in the facing wall is the rubbish pit infill. The lighter material on the top left is the sidewall to the rubbish pit.



IMG_1370 SHC05 At 60 cm. Dark fill in the middle, lighter subsoil on left and right.

The topsoil varies from dark brown-black to dark brown loam with small pebbles making up 1 – 5%. It has been cultivated as a garden for at least the last 40 years.

The subsoil is grey-brown sandy loam with pebbles to 3cm and vertical rootlets.

The rubbish pit is either capped by the topsoil or loses its identity upwards. It is a darker grey-brown sandy loam than the subsoil with stones, bones, charcoal and lumps of stiff red-brown clay. A concentration of these lumps occurs at the base on the eastern side. It has been dug down to 100 cm depth probably into the basal deposit and there are stones at the base.

The basal layer of skerry and medium-grained sandstone has a matrix of grey-brown sandy loam. Orange-brown sand with some stones occurs beneath it.



IMG_1367 SHC05 Close-up of bottom of spit 5 showing clay lumps, bone (white)

Finds

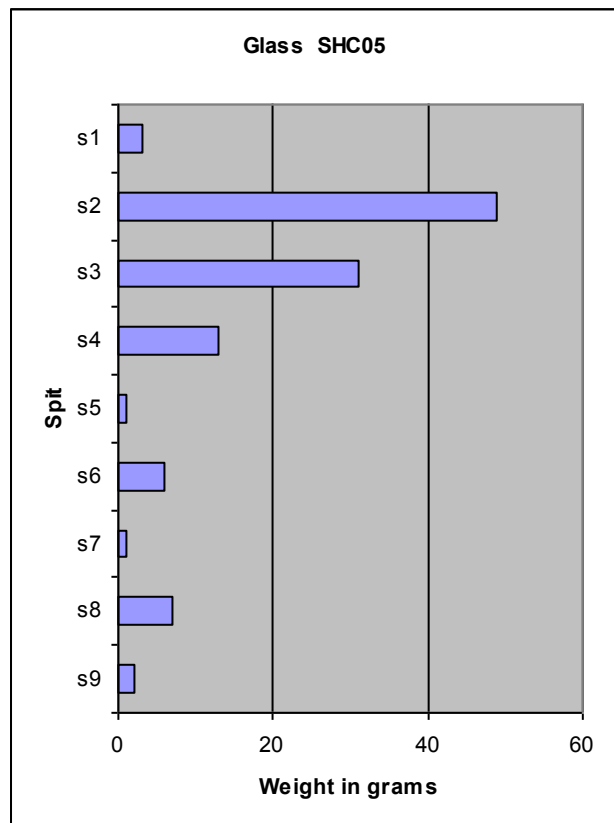
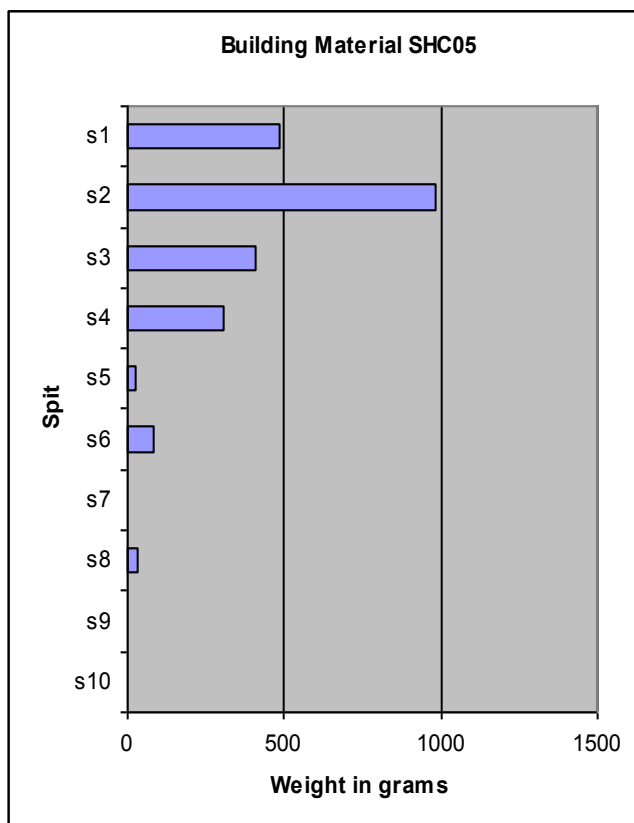
When sieving in SHC05 no distinction was made between the rubbish pit and the sidewall, which is why the second pit was dug. In the second pit the topsoil was not sampled; only the subsoil was sieved. The reason for this was to see the difference between the sidewall to the rubbish pit and the content of the pit.

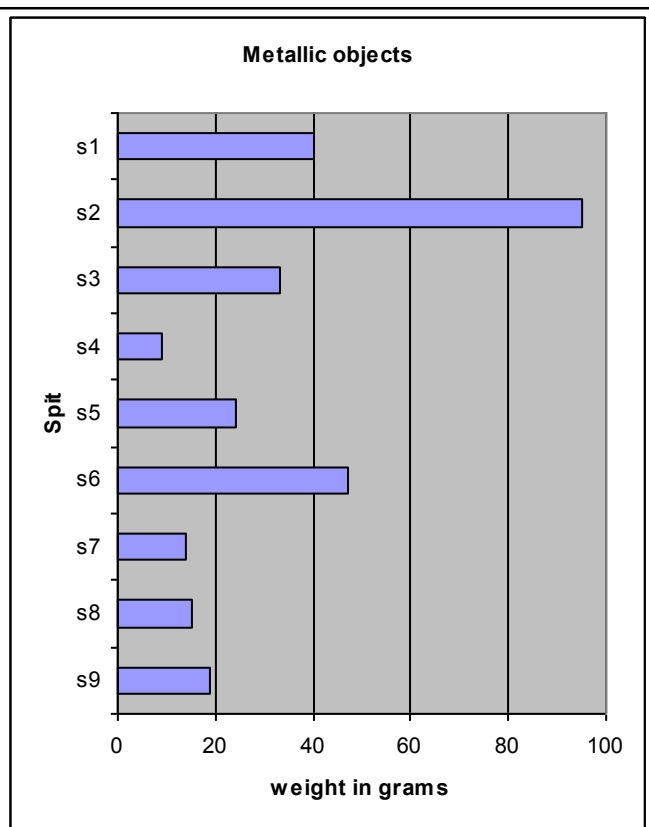
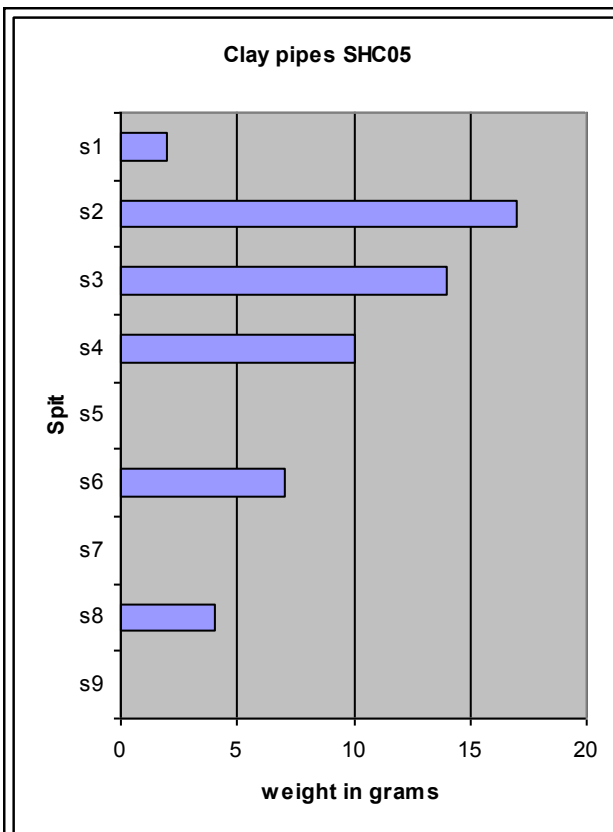
In SHC05 the highest proportion of finds of all general classes was found in the top 40 cm, which is the topsoil.

In building materials there was brick, plaster, floor tile, clay roof tile, ceramic tile and slate. In SHC 05 only plaster and brick was found below the topsoil. Several small pieces of ceramic tile were recovered with designs that looked like

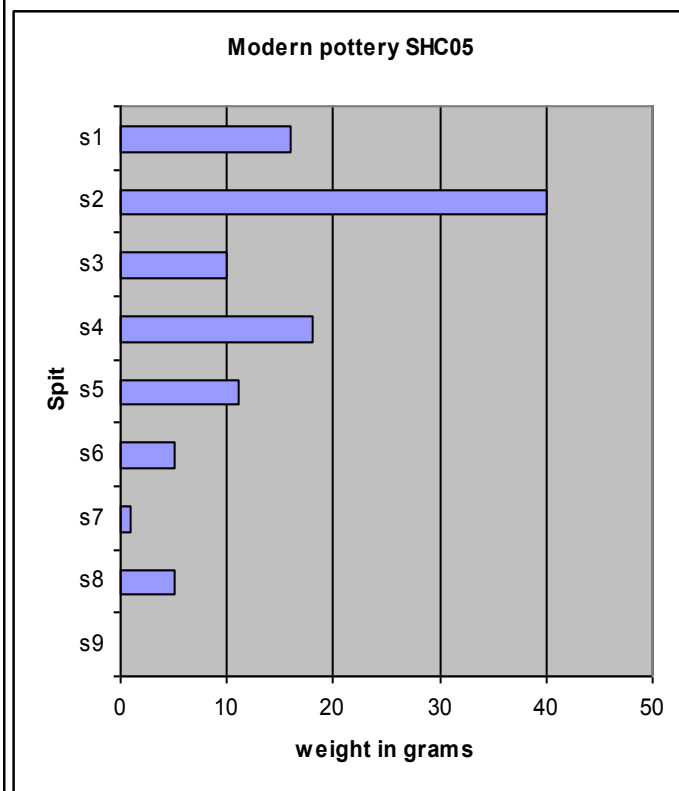
they may be 19th C Minton.

Glass was also highly concentrated in the topsoil, though it was present down to the bottom of the rubbish pit. In the topsoil there was a range of glass types including several pieces of clear bottle both thick and fine, among which was a whole, cylindrical, clear bottle base, 1 3/8th inch diameter. Other pieces were aqua bottle glass possibly from Codd bottles, a clear glass, Kilner-type lid, green bottle and window glass from 1/16th inch to 1/8th inch thick. One piece of pale yellow window glass had a textured side resembling the coloured lights in a leaded window. Another was dimpled like bathroom glass. Below the topsoil the glass was all clear in SHC05 including thin window, embossed and very fine bottles glass. The single piece of glass retrieved from SHC05E was from 60-70 cm depth and was an internally threaded green bottle neck. All of this glass probably dates from the late 19th and 20 centuries.





Clay pipes were also more highly concentrated in the topsoil. Most of them were stems dated from post 1750, but the two bowl fragments were 19th C, which gives a more reliable date for them. There were three that showed the characteristics of early pipes, but they were only stems and could not be dated better than 17th to mid 18th C. Two of them were from the topsoil; one was from below 70 cm depth.



Other objects were more evenly spread throughout the succession. Metal objects, while being abundant in the topsoil, were present at all depths and there was little distinction between the assemblages above and below 40 cm depth. Most of the objects were nails, but there were in addition a wooden plug with fuse wire, metal pipes, a clamp from a bicycle handlebar, copper piping and washers in the topsoil. Below 40 cm there was a rawlplug, aluminium pipe, nut and bolt, brass ring with leather attached a clip and tacks beside the nails.

Miscellaneous items included lead pencils and a carbon fuse. Burnt wood occurred down to 80 cm as did coal.

Modern glazed pottery sherds were found down to 80 cm. They were mostly small, sheared and split and very poor quality. Among the 61 collected 46% were White

Ware, 33% were transfer printed and 15% were Cane-coloured ware, leaving only four other types.

The White Ware sherds were mostly small and uninformative. They varied in colour from white to cream. One or two could be attributed to plates and one with a distinctive ribbed ornament is likely to be from a bowl. One sherd is a rim piece with a gold ornament. There is no reason to think that these are not 19th-early 20th C.

The transfer printed sherds were mostly blue and white, with some of them Willow Pattern plates. These could have been made as early as mid 18th C, but are most likely to be later. Some were pale blue and white and these were definitely made after 1800. The only coloured sherds were from a green and white plate. These would have been made after 1840.

The cane-coloured sherds are poorly preserved and it is impossible to tell if they came from cane-coloured vessels or are part of Mocha Ware jugs or tankards, which commonly were built around a cane-coloured base colour.

Among the last four sherds there were two very distinctive ones. One is possibly Red Ware. This is mainly an 18th C fabric and only in late forms is it glazed. The body is hard fired red clay and its outer surface is pecked beneath a grey glaze. The identification is not certain. The other piece is green glazed with a black band and has been decorated by impressing small squares with a roulette. This might be a 20th C form. There is one possible porcelain sherd with a blue and white hand-painted design and another earthenware sherd, also with a blue and white painted pattern. Both are small pieces and likely to come from cups

The stoneware is all Derbyshire made; three sherds from bottles made between 1840 and 1950. One sherd is earlier (1760-1840).

The Unglazed Red Earthenware was mainly in the topsoil, with one sherd found between 40 and 50 cm.

The coarse earthenware was found down to 60 cm. Three were small, Red-bodied Black Glazed Coarse Earthenware body sherds of uncertain origin. The other two were from between 50 and 60 cm depth and were Yellow Coarse Earthenware. One was clearly a pancheon base. This type of coarse earthenware typically has a clear glaze on a white slip painted on a salmon pink body. It is found in small quantities throughout the parish and is one of the most distinctive pottery types in Bingham.

Four sherds of post-medieval pottery were recovered. They included a Mottled Ware rim and a shiny red-bodied Midland Black Ware sherd from the topsoil. A purple-bodied Cistercian Ware sherd and a fragment of Coarse Black Ware were recovered from 50-60 cm depth. These last two are relatively early spanning the 15th and 16th centuries. The Mottled Ware is commonly 18th C, while the Midland Black Ware spans 1575 to 1725.

Four sherds of medieval pottery were all different fabric types and covered a wide time range. There was no stratigraphical order to them. A Green Glazed sherd (1200-1500), probably not made in Nottingham, and an abraded sherd of Nottingham Splashed Ware (1140-1250) were recovered from the topsoil. A jug sherd made of Coarse pink/orange Sandy Ware (1320-1400) and Light-bodied Gritty Ware (1350-1450) were recovered from 50-60 cm depth. These were the oldest sherds.

Pit SHC05E was not examined in detail until the subsoil was reached at 40 cm. There was no part

of the rubbish pit in this excavation. Only a few finds were recovered. They include bricks and plaster, dark green bottle glass, pieces of bone, two clay pipe stems each attributable to the 17th C, coal, a sherd of pink-bodied coarse earthenware and two sherds of post-medieval pottery. These, found between 40 and 50 cm, were Mottled Ware and Staffordshire Slipware, both commonly late 17th to mid 18th C.

Interpretation

Taking both pits together it appears that there is a difference in the assemblages between the topsoil, the rubbish pit and the subsoil. The topsoil contains sherds of pottery from all ages from medieval with the most abundant being 19th-20th C. The subsoil in SHC05E is limited to sherds and clay pipe stems no younger than mid 18th C. In SHC05 14th C pottery was recovered from spits 6 and 8 in the side wall to the rubbish pit. This is the oldest pottery found and the two sherds span the Black Death.

Although the rubbish pit encountered in SHC05 accounted for about 70 % of the area of the test pit it is the paucity of finds recovered from the sidewall in SHC05E that suggests that most of the material recorded below 40 cm in SHC05 was from the rubbish pit. This had been dug through the subsoil at least 20 cm into the basal clay. Locating its top is difficult. It appears to coincide with the base of the topsoil, but this could be because the topsoil has been worked annually as garden soil. Double digging would destroy any evidence of a boundary to the rubbish pit. The pit, however, contains 19th C pottery such as transfer-printed wares and Cane-coloured Ware, embossed clear glass and pencil lead down to the lowest levels, which suggests that it was probably dug no earlier than the mid to late 19th century.

In the lowest parts of the test pits there is a layer of stones mixed with grey-brown sandy loam or clayey sand. The stones are skerry and medium-grained sandstone, which are quite hard packed. In both pits there is silty sand with a few stones beneath the layer of stones. In SHC05E the lower sand is wet; in SHC05 it is not. In other pits the basal clay sometimes has a top weathered layer consisting of stones and sand that have separated out from the glacial clay. The basal clay was not seen in this pit, but in SHC05 the lumps of red-brown clay in the rubbish pit fill were probably dug out from it when the rubbish pit was excavated. It is concluded, therefore, that the natural deposit here is glacial clay (till).