SHC07

ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT ON

3, SCHOOL LANE

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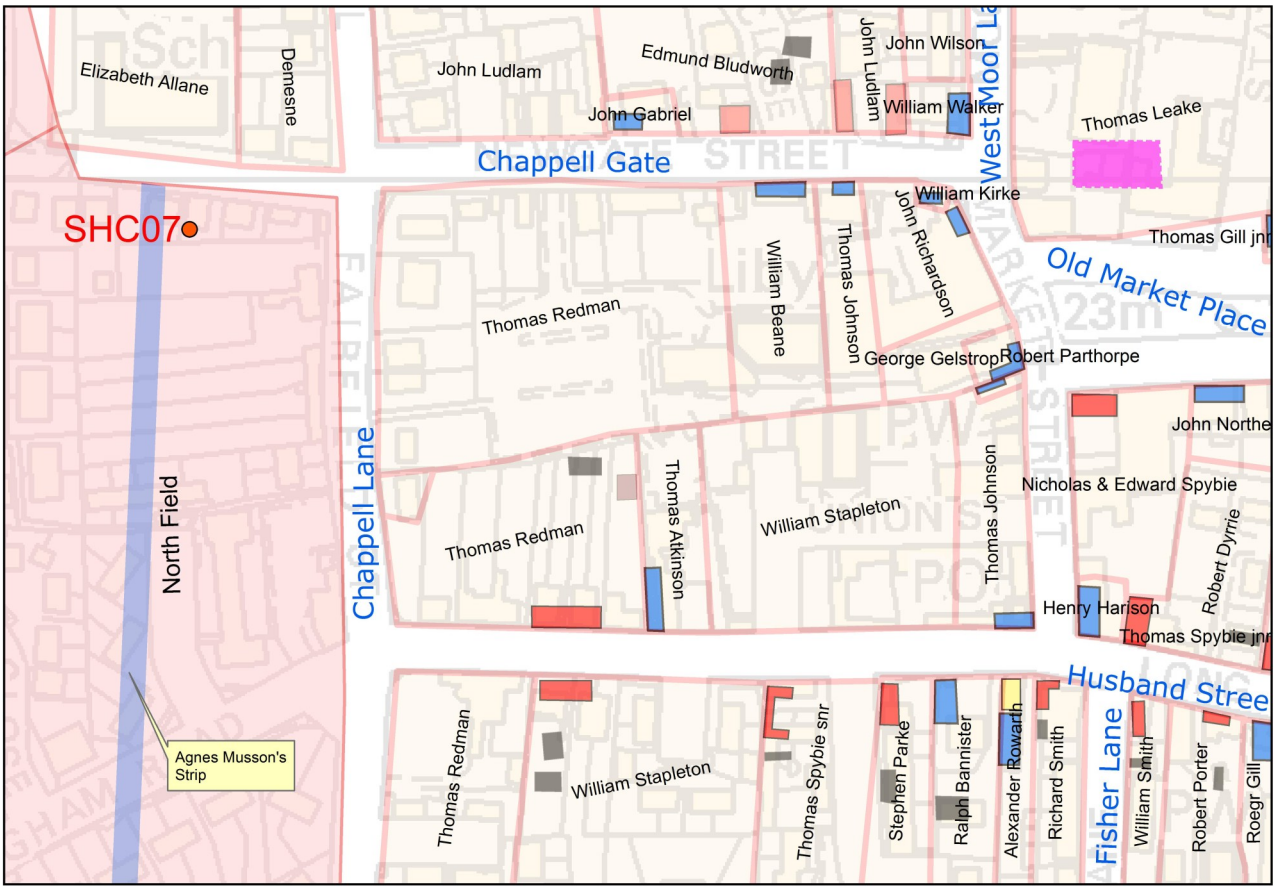
SITE HISTORY

1586

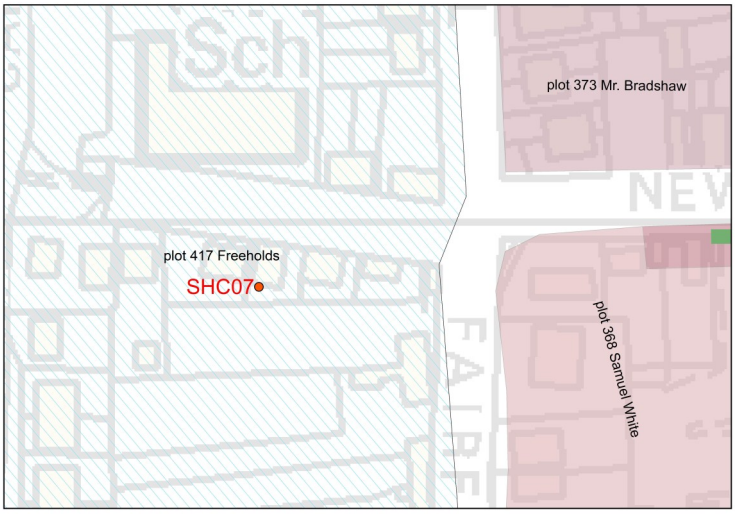
Until the mid-18th century the area around Pit SHC07 was on the edge of the village and was undeveloped in terms of houses etc. The area was part of one of the furlongs that made up North Field.



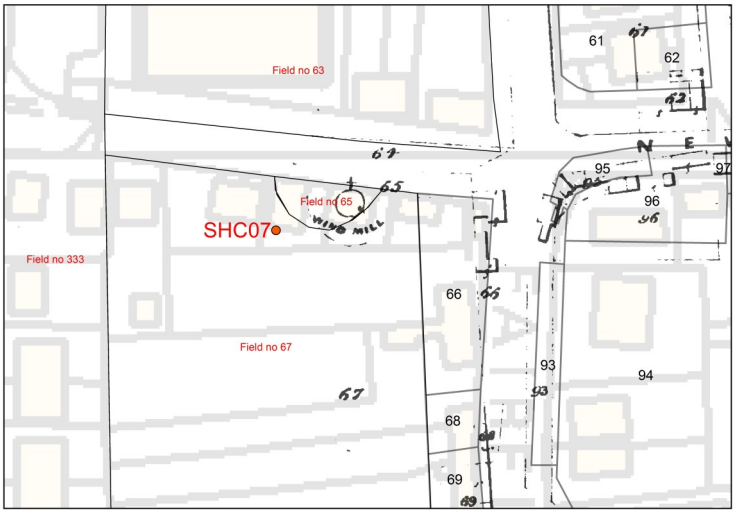
Conjectural map for 1586 showing the furlong on which SHC07 is situated was marginal to the village. The blue strip was farmed by Agnes Musson and lies just to the west of the pit site. Modern topography on all the diagrams is by permission of OS Licence No 0100031673.

Bingham had four open fields on which tenant farmers had strips of land spread round the parish. The map shows (blue line) 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. Agnes had two strips in this furlong, this one amounting to 0.4 of an acre. It was arable, as were most strips, which suggest the whole furlong was arable. The furlong on which SHC07 was dug was probably held by Thomas Dyrrie, another farmer.

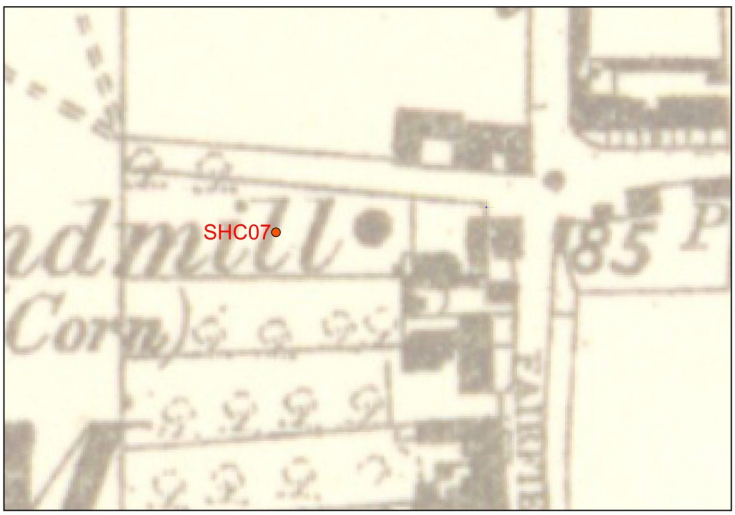
North and East were closes occupied by farmers whose homesteads were further into the village. Over 90% of the parish was owned by Bryan Stapleton who sold it in 1590 to Sir John Stanhope. The Stanhopes became Earls of Chesterfield and were succeeded by the Earls of Carnarvon. Only



Map for 1776 at which time the area around SHC07 was freehold



Tithe map for 1841 showing the pit in relation to the windmill that existed at that time.



The O.S. map for 1883 shows now that the land around SHC07 was divided into orchard strips

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.

1776

We believe most of the open fields were enclosed in the early 1700s, before the majority of 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. On 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.

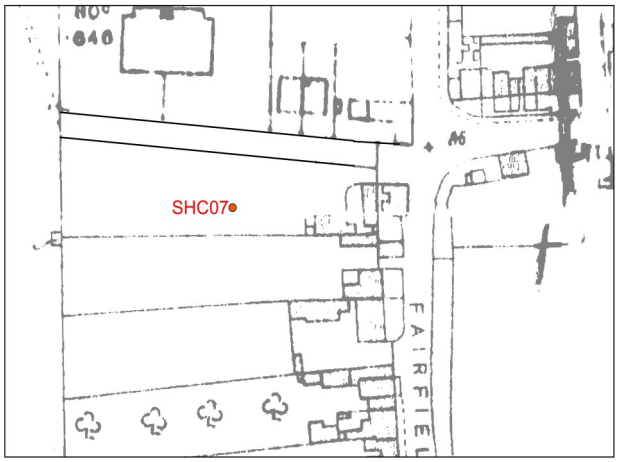
1822

The deeds to 15 Fairfield Street revealed that tithe plot 66 was a cottage and garden owned by William Beet. He lived at what is now Anchor Cottage and owned much if not all of the area previously described as "sundry freeholds".

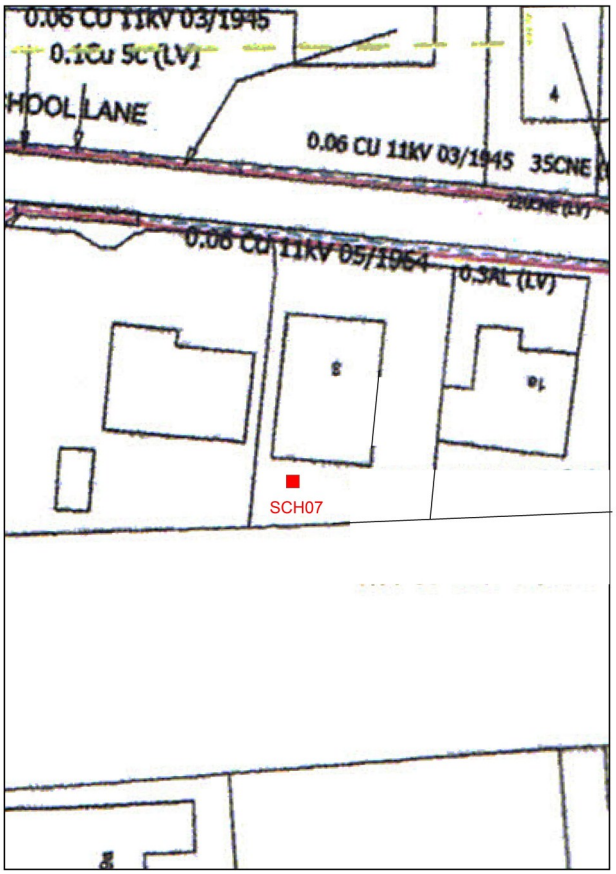
1841

Although the houses along the west side of Fairfield Street had been built by 1841, their gardens had not yet been extended into field 67 west of them. That was in the ownership and occupation of the executors of Jane Beet, William's widow, and was described as a close or garden ground.

The windmill shown on the tithe map was not there in 1776. Number 6 School Lane is adjacent to the site of the mill which was owned and operated by Robert Wilson. He lived at what is now 9 Fairfield Street. There was a second mill in field 333 to the west, owned by The Walker family. It is unlikely that any



O.S. map for 1910.



finds in the test pit would relate to the windmill at plot 65.

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.

1911

The infant school was built in 1911 to replace the Board School, originally the Wesleyan School at the bottom of Kirkhill. The Edwardian houses alongside were built about the same time. The land on which SHC07 was dug was not developed for houses until the 1960s.

Left is the modern map showing the pit site and the house. By permission of Western Power. Above is the pit location.

SHC07

LOCATION AND PROTOCOL

NGR	470157.339983
Height OD (mid point rim of N face)	27.194 m [error 0.021 m]
Dig dates	18-19th June 2012
Pit site	Lawn in small back garden**.**
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.

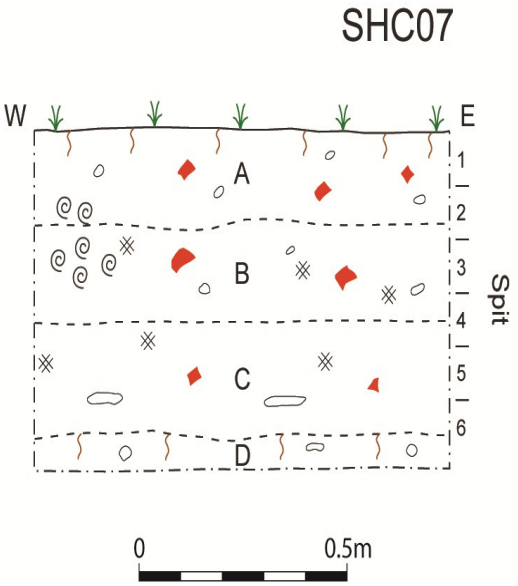
SHC07

ANALYSIS OF RESULTS

Description of pit

The whole of this sequence seems to be disturbed with brick pieces present down to the natural clay at the bottom of the pit.

Topsoil to 35 cm
Subsoil to 57 cm
Basal clay
Channel



A Topsoil of dark brown-black silty loam under turf. Stones, brick and other inclusions 1-5%.
B Topsoil of dark brown-black silty, sandy loam with brick, stones, charcoal, bone, shell pieces (mostly cockle).
C Subsoil of brown-grey silty clay, sticky, some pebbles, charcoal and rare brick. Skerry up to 8 cm at 50 cm depth.
D Red-brown clay with some grit, small stones and other stones to 6 cm, embedded. Vertical carbonised roots. Very disturbed upper surface.

IMG_1471 At 10 cm depth.

IMG_1473 At 60 cm showing dark channel in the bottom right corner

The topsoil is dark brown silty loam with stones, cinder and brick between 1-5% down to 17cm depth. Below this it becomes more sandy, but still contains brick, stones, charcoal, bone fragments, a plastic garden label and cockle shell fragments. The bottom of this layer at around 35 cm depth passes gradually down into the subsoil.

IMG_1474 At 60 cm with the dark fill removed from the channel. Note burrow in the middle.

IMG_1476 North face at 60 cm.

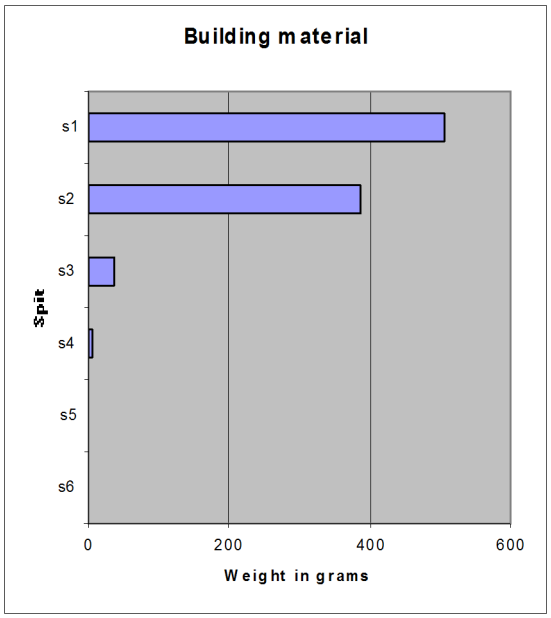
The subsoil is sticky, brown-grey silty clay with pebbles, charcoal and rare brick. Skerry stones are up to 8 cm.

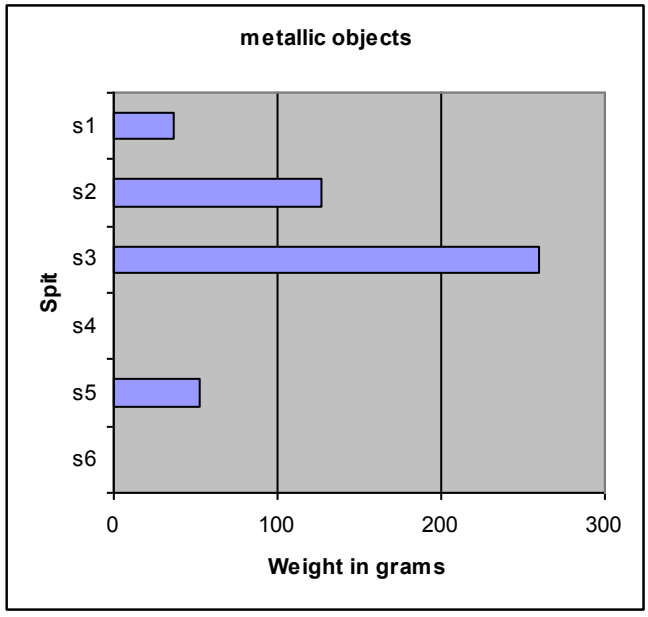
The subsoil passes downwards into red-brown clay with grit, small stones and stones to 6 cm embedded in it. The top of this unit is irregular and very disturbed. Vertical carbonised rootlets are found throughout. It was tested to a depth of 20 cm without change except for a gritty patch. It seems to be the local till.

In the southern part of the pit is a 10 cm-deep channel flowing to the north west. The base is undulating. An old animal burrow crosses it. The fill from the channel was sieved separately and yielded a piece of bone and a small piece of pink-bodied black glazed coarse earthenware.

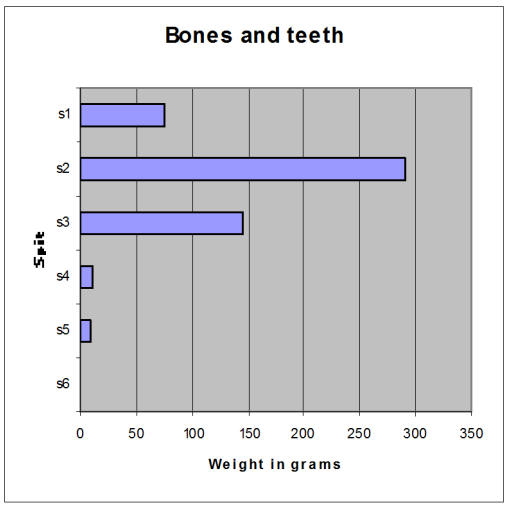
Finds

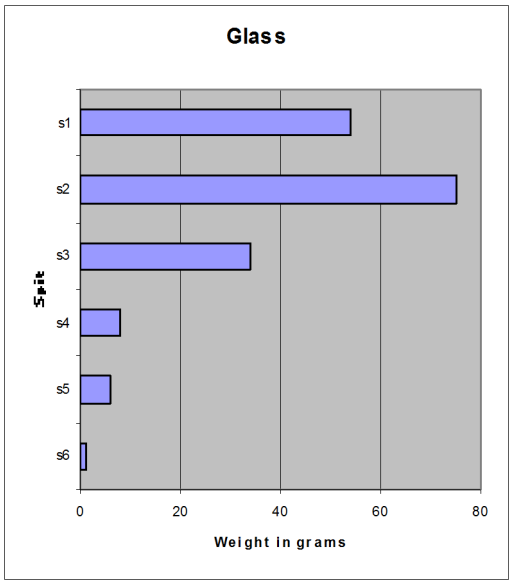
There is overall a high concentration of finds in the topsoil with a diminishing amount downwards.

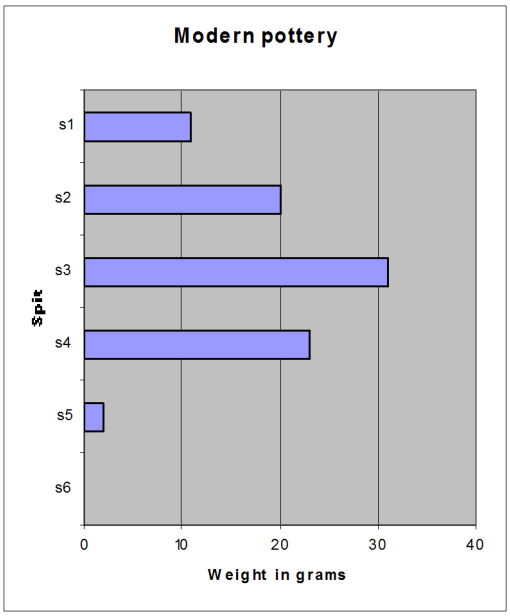




Very little was recovered from the interval 50-60 cm, which was at the bottom of the pit in the upper weathered zone of the basal clay.







Building materials include brick, slate, floor tile, plaster and land drain, and are entirely within the topsoil with most concentrated in the upper 17 cm. Miscellaneous items include pencil lead and a button and are also present only in the topsoil.

Metallic objects, bones and teeth, coal and glass are all concentrated in the topsoil, with a small number of finds down to 50 cm. The metallic objects are nearly all nails, but among them are a buckle, pieces of brass including electricity fittings and metal strips, cast iron guttering and a screw. These all have a modern look about them.

The glass is predominantly clear window glass, mostly 1/8th inch thick but with a few pieces 1/16th and 3/32nd inch. There was a fragment of a clear glass jar and another two of an aqua octagonal bottle. One piece was molten. All except two pieces were in the topsoil. These were green, nearly black bottle and green thin window glass with a heavy patina from the chemical interaction of the soil with the glass. All except these two pieces are likely to be 20th C. The two from the subsoil could be much older. Nearly black glass characterises the onion bottle used for wine in the 17and 18th C, while the thin coloured window glass could be any age before the 20th C.

Bones and teeth are mostly burnt.

The clay pipe fragments are mainly dated 1750-1900, but there are two earlier ones possibly 17th to early 18th C. There was nothing clearly diagnostic of age. A couple of the stems were burnt.

The pottery sherds span post-medieval to modern and are not stratigraphically arranged. They are all present within the top 50 cm. Only the Unglazed Red Earthenware is confined to the top 17 cm.

There are 26 sherds of modern pottery. They are mostly small and many are sheared with no glaze preserved on one side. 46% are White Ware with nothing distinctive among them. They cannot be dated closely, but are most common after 1830. 27% are transfer printed. These are mostly blue and white, with a couple of pale blue and white. Among them are some Willow pattern sherds. These all date from after 1800. Two sherds of Flow Blue were recovered. This technique for this type of pottery was discovered by accident and it was popular between 1840 and 1860, though it was revived later in the 19th C. 19% of the sherds were cane-coloured. They were mostly fine ware sherds and one was the neck of a small jar with an opening 5 cm diameter.

Coarse Earthenware consists mostly of brown-glazed earthenware with three pink-bodied sherds.

They were all small body sherds and they were not diagnostic of any form. The date range for these fabrics is 1675 to 1900, but the brown glazed and pink-bodied types are more likely to be 18th C. One piece was retrieved from the channel at the bottom of the pit.

Three sherds of stoneware include two early Nottingham fabrics (1720-1790) and one Derbyshire-made fabric (1760-1840).

The post-medieval pottery includes Midland Yellow Ware (1580-1700), Coarse Black Ware, which has a very long date range, Slip-trailed Ware (1600-1750), Staffordshire Slipware and Black Slipware (1675-1800).

Interpretation

Although there is a high concentration of finds of all kinds in the top 37 cm, the topsoil, most types of find extend below this, including brick, glass and coal. The implication is that it is all disturbed down to the weathered top of the basal clay. This disturbance probably took place first during agriculture, then the building phase for these houses and afterwards during gardening. The colour contrast between the topsoil and the subsoil is more likely to be a result or the addition of organic material during gardening than any other explanation.

The channel at the bottom of the pit seems to be natural. It is only 10 cm deep and the fill is subsoil type. The presence of a piece of bone and pink-bodied coarse earthenware in it seems to indicate that this is the earliest activity in this area.

There is a heavy concentration of 20th C glass in the topsoil, particularly the top 30 cm and associated with modern building materials in the top 20 cm. The glass is mostly 1/8th inch thick. Below that in the subsoil there is possible 17th C onion bottle glass and thin, coloured window glass that could be any age.

The date range for much of the dateable pottery at all depths has a strong late 17th to 19th century look. The Midland Yellow Ware, Slip-trailed Ware and Staffordshire Slipware all span this period. Midland Yellow Ware came into use in the late 16th C, but lasted until the end of the 17th C, while Slip-trailed wares became common in England in the late 17th C during the reign of King Charles II, that is during the Restoration, when colourful pottery replaced the austere black-glazed wares that had characterised the mid 17th C and earlier. Staffordshire Slipware followed on with equally striking designs. All the stoneware is 18th C and the coarse earthenware is most likely to be the same age. The modern pottery, however, found at all depths to 50cm is entirely 19th C.

This suggests that the top 20 cm was strongly influenced by activity related to the construction of the house, but below that there was some sort of activity hereabouts in the late 17th to end 19th C, though probably not related to a habitation. Most likely the finds from this period were the result of manure scatter.