

**CB17**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT FOR  
No 6 CHERRY STREET**

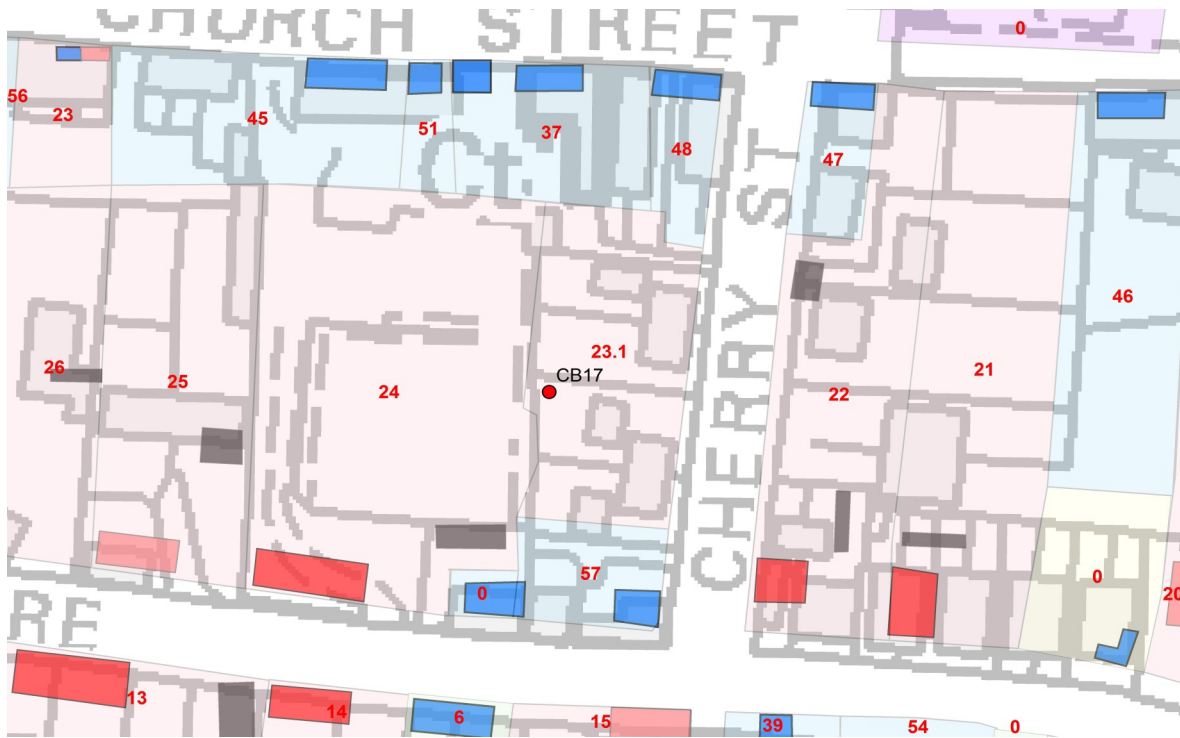
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**CB17**  
**6 CHERRY STREET**

**SITE HISTORY**

We are fairly convinced, from the results of pits on Warner's Paddock, that the line of Jebb's Lane, Cherry Street, Church Lane and the footpath over Parson's Hill represents the line of an ancient trackway linking the pre-historic, Roman and Saxon core of Bingham with the Roman settlement on Parson's Hill and then on towards the Margidunum Roman town.



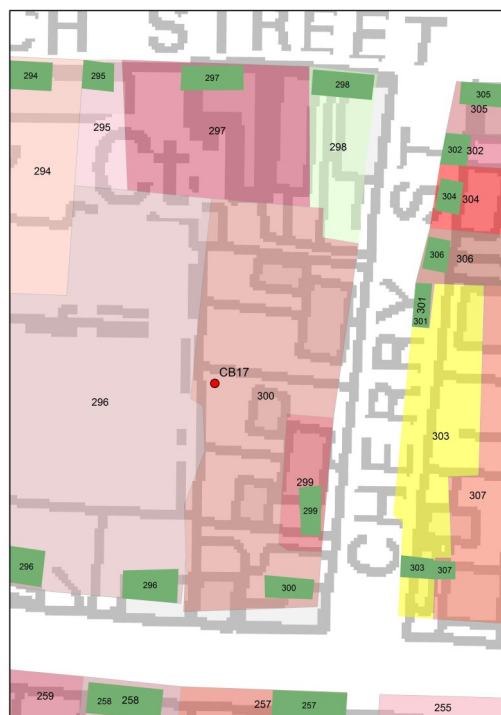
*Conjectural map for 1586 on modern topography.  
OS Licence No 0100031673*

**1586**

As far as we can tell, Number 6 Cherry Street occupies the middle portion of a croft occupied by Elizabeth Allane (23.1 on the map). The croft extended between the boundary between the present day number 8 and Regency House, on the corner with Long Ace, and the boundary between number 2 and the Old Courthouse access drive. There was no cottage and the may have been pasture but could just as well have been used for growing vegetables. Elizabeth's cottage with a small garden was on Church Street, west of what is now the Chesterfield Arms.

**1776**

By 1776 the plot (300) had extended up to Long Acre, but still without a cottage or other building. The occupier was William Baxter, who had a house (300) (fore-runner of Regency House) and garden. The plot just north of this was a house and garden (299) occupied by Baxter's fa-



*Map for 1776 from the estate survey*



*Tithe map of 1841 on modern topography.  
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*O.S. map of 1910*

ther, Samuel. It covered part of the front of number 6's plot.

### **1841**

Plot 183 was a house (previously Samuel Baxter's) and orchard occupied by William Hitchcock. William was a stocking maker and his two daughters were seamers.

### **1910**

By 1910 the plot had become an orchard (hence "Cherry Street" and the old buildings on the whole plot had disappeared. The Victorian villas had been built on Church Street.

### **1920s**

The two pairs of large semi-detached houses were built in the early 1920s, but probably numbers 2 and 4 slightly later than 6 and 8. Numbers 6 and 8 were designed by the Rural District Surveyor, Cyril Kendrick who lived in number 8. The pair were owned by the chemist Mr Cadge who lived at number 6.

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**LOCATION AND PROTOCOL**

<b>NGR</b>	470649.339861
<b>Height OD (mid point rim of N face)</b>	23.248 m [error 0.018 m]
<b>Dig dates</b>	18 - 20 <sup>th</sup> July 2012
<b>Pit site</b>	Rear garden under lawn, close to the old bowling green behind the Chesterfield Arms.
<b>Pit protocol</b>	1-metre pit, 10 cm spits, all sieved. Dug to 80 in whole pit; to 125 cm in the SW quadrant. Pit orientated N-S. North face sections only described and measured unless otherwise stated. Photographs taken facing north unless otherwise stated.

## CB17

### ANALYSIS OF RESULTS

#### Description of pit

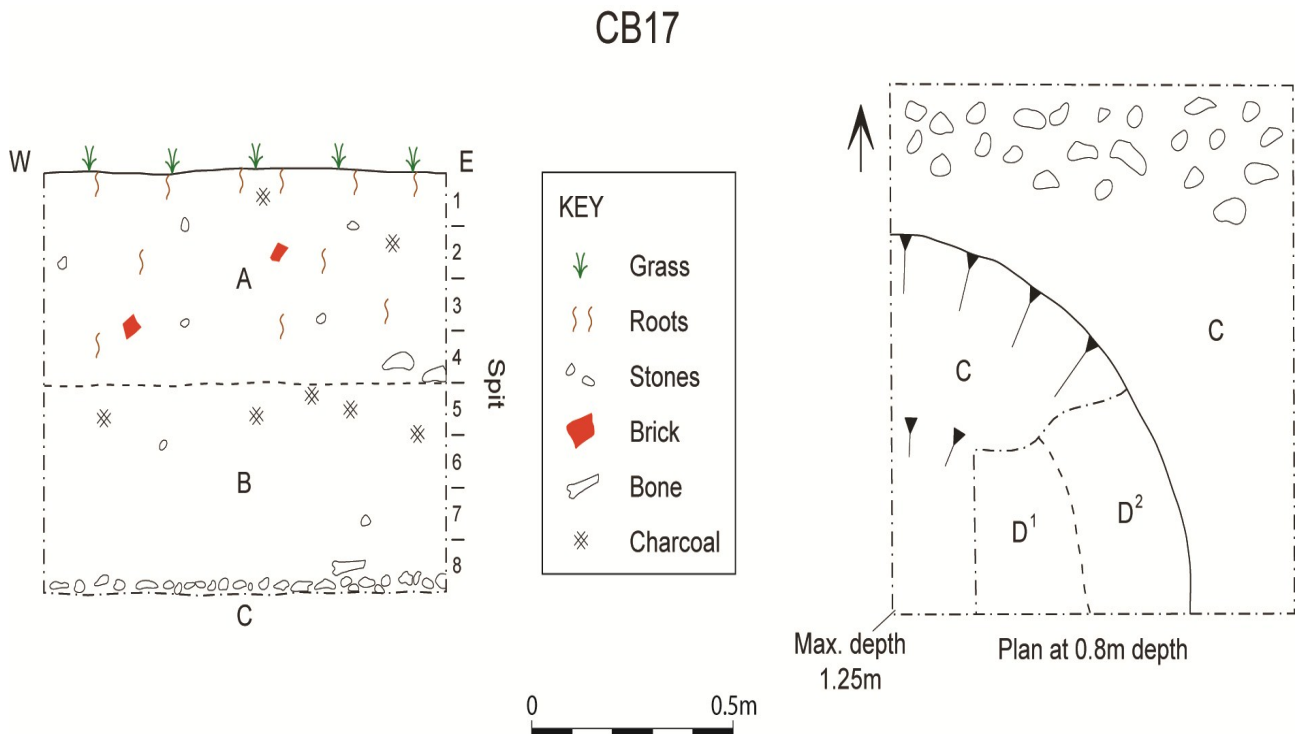
The test pit encountered a rubbish pit dug into the clay at the bottom and sectioned one quadrant of it. The sequence in the pit is:

- Topsoil to 40 cm
- Subsoil to 80 cm
- Infill from 80 to 125 cm
- Basal clay.

The topsoil is very dark brown-black clay loam with some stones (<1%) some bits of brick, roots and pot fragments. At the base of the topsoil some large stones were found with charcoal. The stones are 6 to 7 cm long quartz sandstone, fire-cracked and sooted and clearly have been in a fire.

The subsoil lies beneath an irregular base to the topsoil. It is brown-grey clay loam with <1% stones up to 6 cm.

The basal clay is red-brown clay with grit, small stones and patches of grey colour. The clay becomes more red with depth and is clearly a till. It is particularly stony on the north side of the pit,



- A topsoil of very dark brown-black clay loam with small stones <1%, occasional brick, pot and roots .*
- B Subsoil of brown-grey clay loam with stones <1% up to 6 cm.*
- C Red-brown clay with stones, grit, small grey mottles. Becomes red with depth. Thought to be the Thrussington Till.*
- D Fill in rubbish pit of gritty clay with patchy colour variation. At 80 cm outer concentric zone is grey (D<sup>2</sup>), inner zone is red-brown (D<sup>1</sup>). Charcoal is common. The sides of the pit are stepped.*



IMG\_1522 view S showing at a depth of 80 cm with a pit in SW corner with stepped sides progressing down to 125 cm



IMG\_1523 West face showing the dark topsoil, lighter subsoil and the more orange fill to the pit at the bottom.

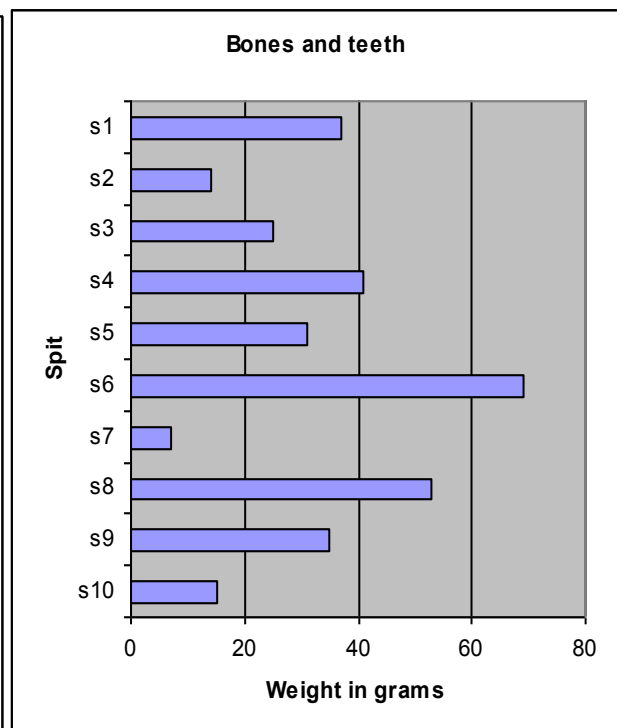
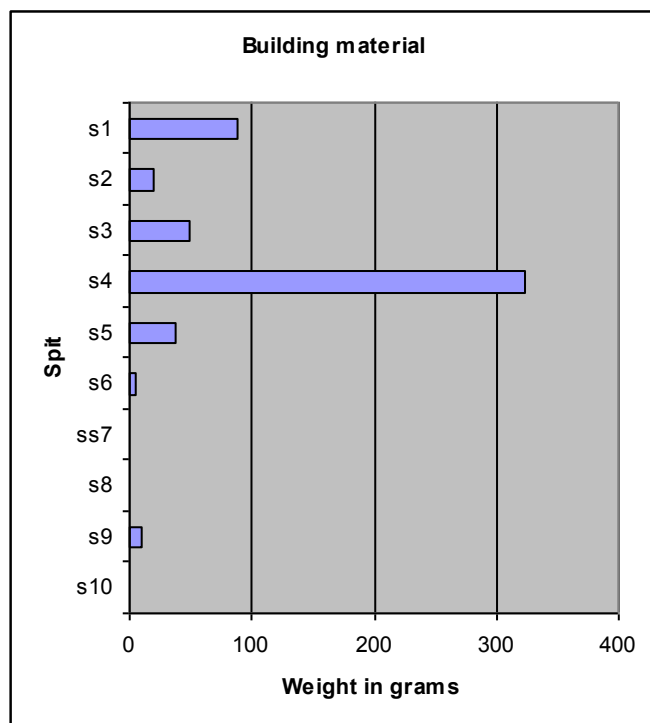
which is fairly typical of the weathered top of the till.

A pit dug into the basal clay goes down to 125 cm. One quadrant is exposed and the sides are stepped. The fill is gritty clay with a patchy colour variation roughly forming concentric zones. Outer zone is grey; the inner is red-brown, but this disappears with depth to red-brown.

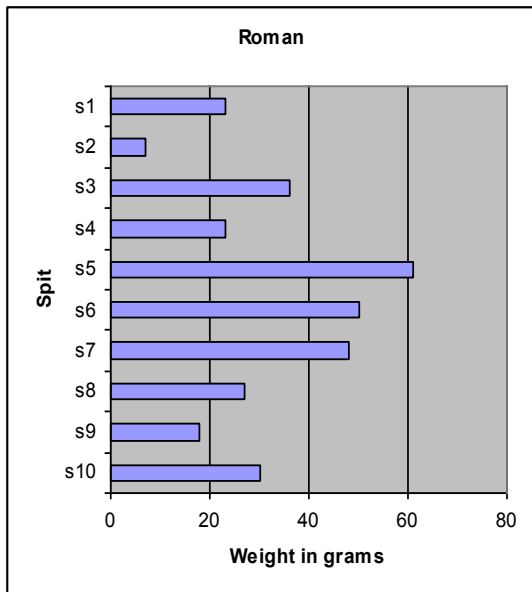
### Finds

The building materials are mainly brick and plaster with roof and floor tiles and a single piece of slate. Some of the floor tiles were 1 inch thick and resembled quarry tiles. A thin piece of calcareous sandstone looked dressed, but is not the same material as the limestone roofing slates. The finds were recorded predominantly in the topsoil with the greatest concentration at the base at 40 cm. A few pieces were recorded in the subsoil and one piece of brick was found at the top of the fill between 80 and 90cm depth.

Burnt wood in the topsoil indicates the proximity of a fire, while there is clinker both in the topsoil and the infill at 90cm, also possible from a fire.

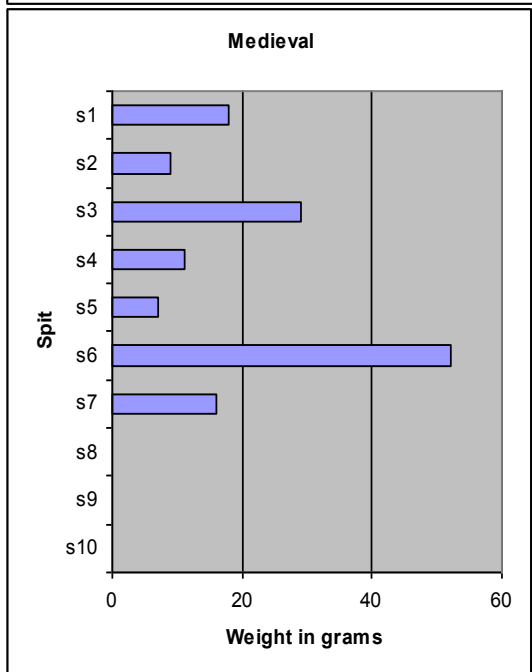






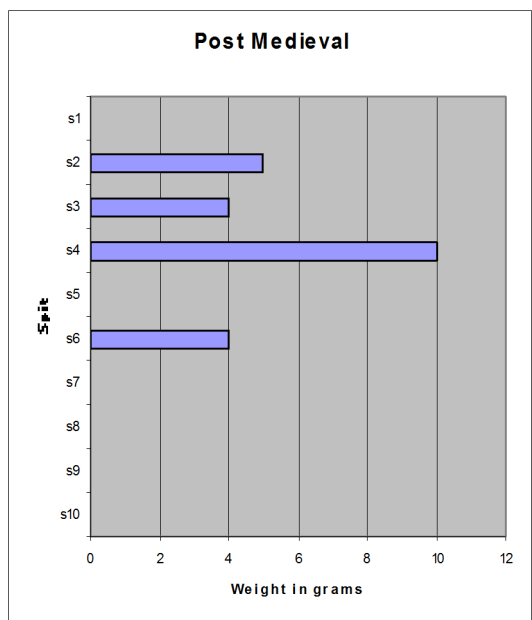
Bones and teeth occur down to 100 cm and include a boar tusk found in the infill near the bottom of the pit.

All the glass found except for one piece was in the topsoil. This one piece was clear bottle glass with embossed lettering, O and D. This post dates c1870. Much (52%) of the rest was clear or pale green and about 1/16th inch thick flat, possibly window glass. One clear piece was cut at an angle of 70° and had a stain running parallel to the edge that marked the extent either of window lead or putty. The glass varied in thickness either side of 1/16th inch and is good quality. It was probably made using the cylinder-sheet process during the 19th C. Some of the flat, light green glass could be from the side of a flat-sided bottle. Some dark green, aqua and brown glass was clearly from cylindrical bottles. One fragment of aqua had an internal thread and was likely to have been made in the late 19th or early 20th C. Only one piece showed a patina. There is nothing to suggest that any of this glass is older than 19th C.



Metallic objects were widely varied in type and found at all depths from 20 to 90 cm. Included were iron nails, copper rods, tube and wire, flat brass pieces and a piece of wrought iron. A piece of brass was found in the pit infill at 90cm.

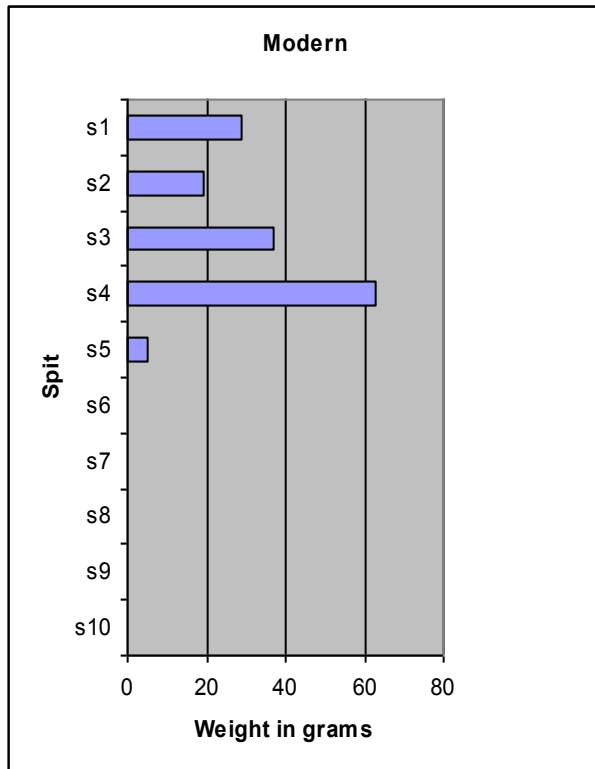
Several large pieces of coal were found down to 80cm depth.



All except five of the clay pipe fragments were found in the topsoil and a third of the total dated to the period mid 18<sup>th</sup> to end 19<sup>th</sup> C. The rest were generally 17<sup>th</sup> to mid 18<sup>th</sup> C. However, the only clearly dated bowl, found between 50-60 cm could be fixed at 1675 to 1725 and it is likely that this is the date range for most of the early pipes found.

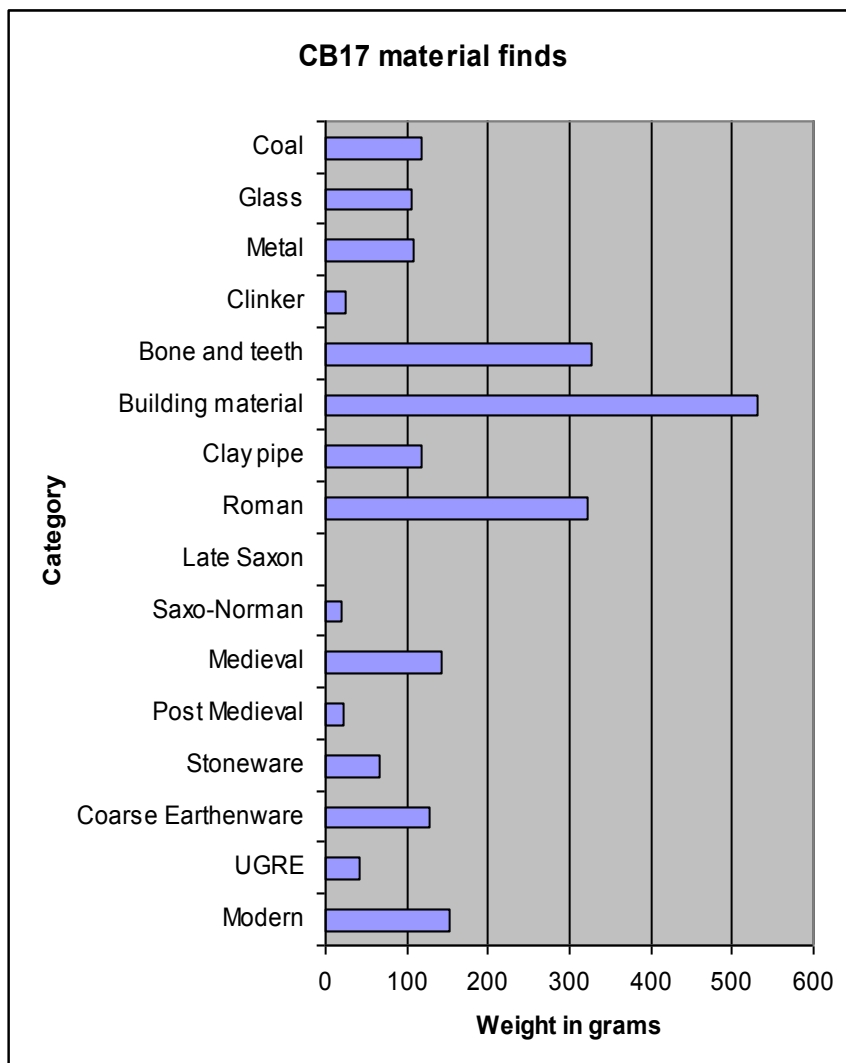
Pottery sherds were quite abundant and present at all depths into the fill in what is thought to have been a rubbish pit at the bottom of the test pit. There was more Roman material than any other pottery category, but in most cases the sherds were present at all depths. There was however a sort of stratigraphy:

- Roman pottery occurred down to 100 cm
- Medieval pottery to 70 cm
- Post medieval pottery to 60 cm
- Modern pottery to 50cm



The modern glazed pottery was confined to the top 50 cm with most between 30-40 cm depth. White Ware (33%) was most abundant with Transfer Print second (28%). The Transfer Print was quite varied. There was blue and white Willow Pattern, pale blue and white, green and white and brown and white. One piece was possibly Flow Blue, which is typically mid 19th C. The others have longer time ranges with Willow Pattern still being made, but in general they are from the second half of the 19th C. In addition 16% was Cream Ware, which has an earlier date range (mid 18th to mid 19th C). Two unusual pieces included Smear-glazed Stoneware, which is a highly decorated black glazed fabric and was typically 1820-1840. The second is Cream-bodied Pale Grey Earthenware with a date range 1775-1825. This is fairly distinctive in that its glaze is usually chipped around the edges of the sherd. It has been found in several pits and in the Robert Miles big dig lots of pieces were found and fitted together to make a

form that was probably a chamber pot. The assemblage as a whole is probably attributable to the 19th C.



The Unglazed Red Earthenware is mostly from plant pots. All these sherds and the coarse earthenware came from the topsoil and the upper 10 cm of the subsoil.

Most of the coarse earthenware was brown glazed, but there were sherds of pink bodied, a couple of large sherds of Vitrified Black-glazed Coarse Earthenware and Yellow Coarse Earthenware. These all fit into a date range 1675 to 1900.

Among the stoneware a single sherd of German blue and grey stoneware dates from 1690 to 1750. Three other sherds of early Nottingham-made wares date 1690-1715. These are typical early ware types with an orange body. The remain-

der are Nottingham-made ware types dated 1720-1790 and Derbyshire types dated 1840-1950.



Most were too small for the form to be identified, but there were some identifiable as from mugs and jars.

The small number of post-medieval sherds included Midland Yellow Ware (late 16<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> C), Midland Black Ware and Light-bodied Black Ware from a similar date range, a sherd of Coarse Black Ware which cannot be easily dated and several sherds of late 17<sup>th</sup> to mid 18<sup>th</sup> C Slipware and Mottled Ware.

The medieval sherds represent a variety of fabric types. There were 29 in total. Of these two Midland Purple Ware sherds (1400-1550) and 3 Light-bodied Gritty Ware sherds (1350-1450) post dated the Black Death (1348-49). All the rest (83%) pre-dated the Black Death. Among these were Nottingham Splashed Ware (1140-1180), Developed Stamford Ware with a date range of 1150 to 1400, Medieval Sandy Ware (1100-1300) and a sherd of undated Shelly Ware were among the oldest. Later fabric types include Medieval Sandy Ware (1200-1300), Nottingham Green Glaze (1200-1350), Nottingham Coarse pink/orange Sandy Ware (1200-1350), Nottingham Light-bodied Green Glaze (1250-1300) and Nottingham Reduced Green Glaze (1300-1400). One fragment is thought to have belonged to a medieval tile. Most of the sherds were from jugs, few jars and a pancheon.

Several sherds of Saxo-Norman wares were recovered. One Non-local Fabric Type that could be Dales Ware and dated 1000-1200 was recovered from spit 8 and is more or less where it should be stratigraphically. Sherds of Stamford Ware fabric A and B were found in the topsoil and the upper subsoil. They all fell within the date range 970 to 1200.

Two sherds of Late Saxon wares were found. One, Torksey Ware (900-1050) was a particularly fine fabric. The other was a Lincoln Kiln-type Shelly Ware (870-1000). They were recovered from spits 3 and 6.

The Roman pottery consisted of 75% Grey Ware. Most of it could not be dated, but there were some diagnostic pieces. Decorated pieces include double horizontal grooves, lattice burnished dating 130-300, a bowl or dish with a chamfered base from 100-300 and an acute lattice copy of a Black Burnished jar from 120-170. This last one was the tightest dated sherd of all the Grey Ware. Several sherds of Nene Valley colour coated ware were recovered with dates in the range 170-230 or 250 or 170-300. One was from a plain-rimmed beaker with grooves at the base of a funnel neck. Another from a bead and flange bowl could be dated as 4<sup>th</sup> C. Among the remainder were sherds of Medium Sandy Oxidised Ware, Sandy Ware including an early form dating 50-70, Derbyshire Ware cup rim 150-300 and undated Trent Valley Ware. Several sherds could not be attributed and fell into the category of Unresolved Roman to Medieval

Three flints were recovered from the top 10 cm, 40-50 cm and 80-90 cm depth. One was a black flake, probably late Neolithic/early Bronze Age. A small piece of honey-coloured flint with some of the cortex is likely to be debitage. The third piece is uncertain, but was broken off a white speckled stone that shows evidence of wind erosion. This would have happened at surface during the long cold phase accompanying the most recent ice age.

### **Interpretation**

The sequence in the pit above 80 cm contains all the dated pottery except for some of the Roman. Roman pot sherds, bones, tusks, bits of metal and a small piece of brick were found in the fill in the downward extension of the pit, the top of which was at 80cm depth. This downward extension seems to be part of a circular pit with stepped sides dug into the basal clay. The fact that it contains only Roman pottery suggests that it may be dated to Roman times. Whether it was a rubbish pit or had another function cannot be determined. The site is close to the Chesterfield Inn site dug

in 2003 by APS prior to development and which showed extensive Roman activity. It is also next door to No 8 Cherry Street, which had good evidence of a nearby Roman household.

The sequence above this rubbish pit is a simple one of subsoil and organic topsoil. There is a suggestion that the topsoil was imported to this site, though probably not from far and it is likely that it was simply stripped off during building and then re-deposited when building was finished.

Nearly all the dated material in the topsoil can be attributed to the 18th and 19th centuries. Older pottery was found in it, but this is typical of topsoil throughout Bingham. Most of the building material is confined to the topsoil and all except one piece of glass is also from the topsoil. The exception, found at 60 cm depth in the subsoil is late 19th or 20th C. The presence of the charcoal and fire-cracked stones at the bottom of the topsoil layer suggests a ground surface that existed possibly at the time the present house was being built in the 1920s, but the mixing of materials enclosed in both the topsoil and subsoil suggests that they have been regularly turned for agricultural purposes, such as ploughing or digging.

Much of the debris in the topsoil is likely to derive from the demolition some time after 1841 of the cottage that was on what is now the front garden of No 8. There is some interesting information of the type of house in the glass found in the topsoil. Much of it was window glass, either clear or pale green and around 1/16th inch thick. One piece was a corner fragment with an angle of 70° and it showed signs of having been set in lead. This could only have come from a diamond shaped piece with the other angle 110°.

The post-medieval pottery ranges from late 16th to 18th centuries. Among the 18th C pottery is a fragment of late 17th to early 18th C German stoneware and some Nottingham stoneware from the same period. The brown stoneware is mainly 18th C and one find of Scratched Blue Stoneware dates from the middle of the 18th C. Though there is some earlier post-medieval pottery there is little of and it has a wide range of dates.

The modern glazed pottery is mostly 19th C. There are only three brown stoneware sherds with a date range of 1840-1950. The modern pottery is interesting in that there is little evidence of anything later than the late 19th C. Even the Unglazed Red Earthenware, most of which is almost certainly plant pot, could be that date range. This means that there is scant to no evidence of 20th C activity in this test pit. The evidence from the glass, the clay pipes and the post-medieval and modern pottery is that the cottage that was here from before 1776 until some time after 1841 was a substantial building, but one with old fashioned windows, rather than the typical late 18th C rectangular windows with A4 sized panes.

There was no evidence, as in No 2 Cherry Street, of an older ground surface in the late 17th C, but it would have been at the level of the top of the rubbish pit exposed in this test pit.

There is little significance to the absence of early/middle Anglo-Saxon pottery, but from Late Saxon onwards there is something from each age category including the post-Black Death period. This is in no way in conflict with the other Cherry Street pits. All of them show Late Saxon, Saxo-Norman and medieval fabrics including late 14th and 15th C. Only pit CB21 in No 2 Cherry Street does not contain any post-Black Death pottery. Others do have Light-bodied Gritty Ware, which has a range 1350 – 1450 and seems to indicate a common story of development for part of this area. It is also similar to the other areas in that there are sherds of pottery from vessels made outside the Nottingham area indicating that there were good trade links with the outside world.

The Roman pottery is predominantly Grey Ware, as with the other sites along Cherry Street with little evidence of a high status household. The dates of the pottery range from 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> centuries,

with little additional information to add any precision to the basis supposition that there was continual activity here throughout the Roman period.

The flints were so different from each other and found at three different depths that they could not be classed as an assemblage. Only the one from the topsoil could be ascribed an age.