

THE NATURE OF THE WORKS

An archaeological watching brief is required during:-

- a. The excavation of any strip foundations applying to the new dwelling, detached garage, extensions to the barn to be converted and the stable block.
- b. The reduction of ground levels in advance of new floor / road levels.
- c. The excavation of service / drainage trench's.
- d. The excavations in advance of the installation of a septic tank.

AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION

Prior to the commencement of groundworks it was suspected that there was the potential for the preservation of buried archaeological remains, as it was anticipated that there had been only a minimal amount of previous ground disturbance associated with the agricultural development of the site.

It was likely that the archaeology may comprise of a stratified sequence of deposits or the remains of former structures associated with the Medieval and Post Medieval settlement and surrounding field systems at Hopperton.

The aims of the archaeological investigation were as follows:

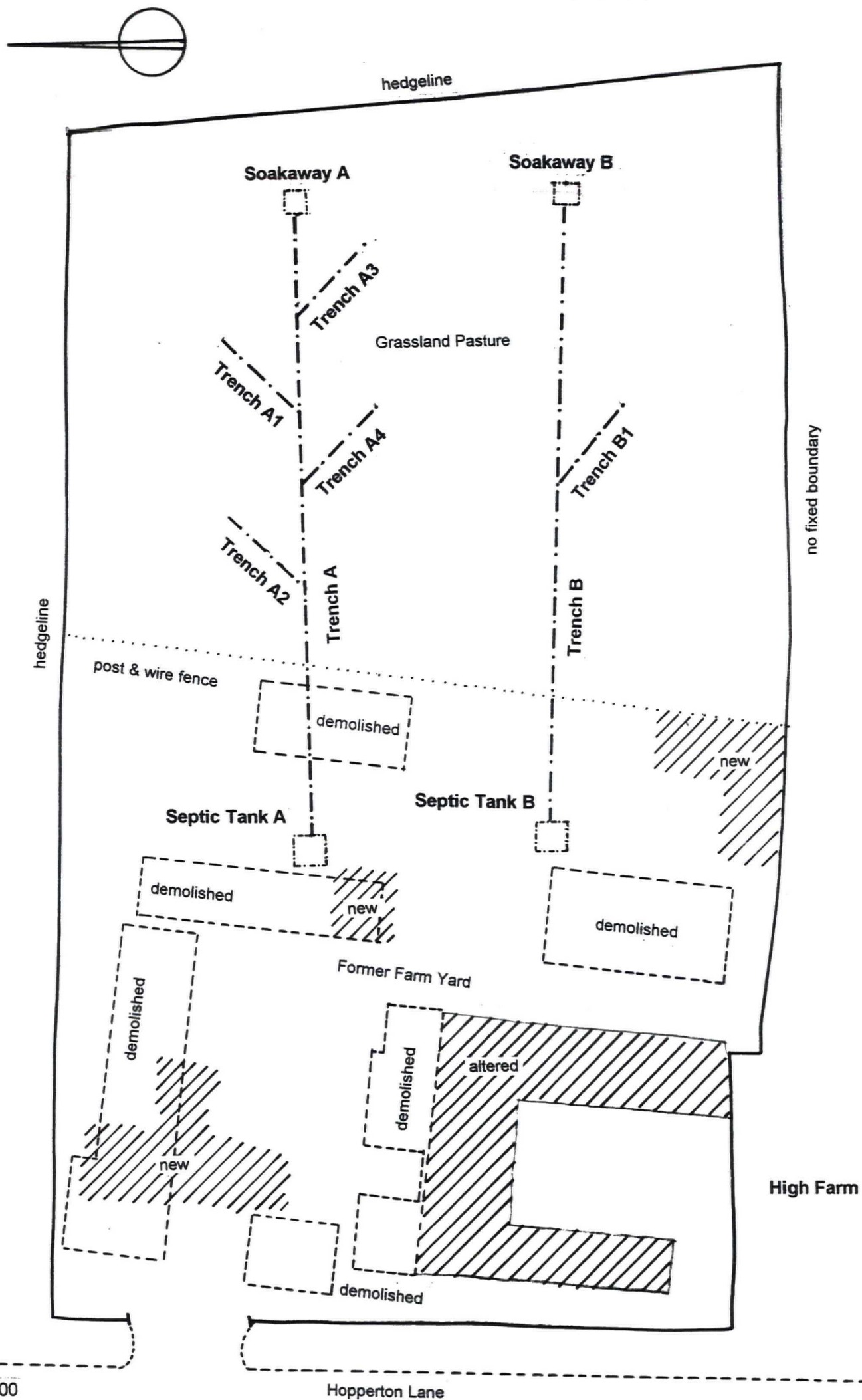
- a. to record any finds, features or structures of archaeological interest and obtain information on the presence, extent, character, date and depth of these remains;
- b. to assess the importance of any remains found and interpret them in terms of their historical context.

It was agreed that the principal archaeologist would be present, on site, during the machine excavation and removal of any turf / overburden, top soil and upper levels of the sub soil.

In the event that archaeology be exposed during the above works it is agreed that adequate time be allowed for the archaeologist to record same.

FIGURE 2

SITE PLAN



Scale 1:500

Hopperton Lane

SUMMARY

The Archaeological Watching Brief concluded on Tuesday 2nd June 1998. By which time it had been concluded that no archaeological features or deposits had been identified across the site with the exception of a buried ploughsoil the date of which could not be established.

The watching brief was maintained during the excavations in advance of the installation of two:-

Septic Tanks

Soakaways

Service Trench's

and up to five Branch Drains.

It was also possible to inspect the pre-excavated strip foundations associated with the construction of the Stables and Garage development.

All the above works were conducted in that area of the site i.e. central and east where previous ground disturbance had been minimal, including a green field site and as such it had been anticipated that these would be, potentially, the most archaeological sensitive.

The paucity of archaeological evidence resulting from these excavations led the archaeologist to revise the project design prior to the conclusion of the intended groundworks. It was decided not to observe the outstanding excavations, these included the excavation of strip foundations in advance of the construction of a new dwelling and a detached garage together with any related service runs.

CONCLUSION

The recent archaeological watching brief conducted by Mr.K.J.Cale on behalf of East Taylor Heward & N.H.C.B at High Far, Hopperton, was largely negative.

Natural sub-soil was encountered within each of the areas of excavation. The nature, matrix and colour of this deposit of glacial drift was diverse with a clayey sand (7.5YR4/4) predominating. Within each of the excavations the sub soil dominated the stratigraphy within the sections.

PLATES 5 AND 6



Septic Tank A, following excavation, facing south.



Septic Tank B, following excavation, facing north.

It would appear that the surface of this layer mirrored the existing ground levels across the study area. Furthermore the undulations and rising ground levels within the southern extent of the paddock, which had been previously considered to be anthropogenic in origin, were in fact the result of drift deposition.

The stratigraphy overlying the sub soil was relatively uniform and simple.

The earliest anthropogenic deposit was identified within the eastern extent of the study area within the paddock at 0.13m below the existing ground level, this layer of ploughsoil was identified within the opposing sections of the trench for a length of 47m and a depth of 0.75m. Unfortunately no artefacts were recovered from this layer, however a medieval or post medieval date can not be discounted.

In the western extent of the study area i.e. that lying within the curtilage of the former farm yard the upper levels of stratigraphy had been heavily disturbed during the previous farming activity across the site, this disturbance appears to have truncated and removed any archaeological features or deposits that may have been situated within this area of the site.

A very small assemblage of finds were recovered from the trench excavations. This assemblage was entirely made up of 20th century artefacts associated with the former agricultural management of the site and as such the finds were not removed from site.

Kevin John Cale

March 1999

APPENDIX A

Trench & Related Excavations

Septic Tank A

Type: Service: Sceptic: machine
N.G.R: 44224 45693

Length: 2.8 m
Width: 2.8 m
Depth: 3.0 m

Planform: Square
Aligned: -

Context No's: 1000 - 1003
Plate No: 5
Fig. No: 2

On arrival at site on the 1st June 1998 it was noted that the immediate area surrounding the site had been cleared this had involved the demolition of prefabricated concrete farm buildings and the removal of the concrete floor slab. These demolition works had resulted in the disturbance of the surrounding ground levels and the removal of hardcore sub base. The excavation was situated within the north east quadrant of the study area. The existing ground levels sloped gently down to the south west.

The overburden (context 1000) associated with the demolition and removal the former concrete outbuilding was smeared thinly across the surface, this layer of hardcore contained a high quantity of inclusions dominated by concrete and brick fragments.

At 0.14m below the existing ground level the sub soil interface (context 1001) was identified within all four sections of the trench. This layer of grey orange brown (10YR4/4) clayey sand and gravels was moist and loosely compacted, the layer contained a very high quantity of inclusions dominated by gravels. Within the west and north facing sections of the trench the layer increased in depth, apparently occupying a depression within the surface of the underlying sub soil. The layer was devoid of archaeological features or finds.

At 0.54m the surface of the sub soil (context 1002) was identified within the west and north facing sections of the trench. This layer of medium grey brown (10YR4/2) loamy sandy clay is moist and well compacted with a high quantity of inclusions, namely; water worn cobble and pebble. The surface of the layer was undulating, notably with a broad depression that has a shallow rounded profile. The feature was naturally formed associated with the deposition of glacial drift. This layer of sub soil measured up to 4.46m and was identified in the base of excavation.

Within the east facing section of the trench a variation in the sub soil was identified (context 1003) this layer of medium orange brown (7.5YR4/4) was moist and well compacted and contained a high quantity of inclusions, these were dominated by water worn pebbles. The layer continued into the north facing section where it was sealed by context 1002.

No archaeological features or deposits were identified within this trench.

Trench A

Type: Service: Septic: machine
N.G.R: 44226 45694

Length: 60 m
Width: 1.10 m
Depth: 1.40 m

Planform: Linear
Aligned: East

Context No's: 2000 - 2006

Plate No: -
Fig. No: 2

The trench was excavated from the eastern side of Septic Tank A in a easterly direction, 13m was excavated within the curtilage of the former farmyard, the remaining 47m was excavated into the small paddock within the eastern extent of the study area. The existing ground levels fall gently down to the west.

The length of trench excavated within the former farmyard had been subjected to the same level of ground disturbance as was recorded during the excavation of Septic Tank A. The overburden (context 2000) associated with the demolition and removal the former concrete outbuilding was smeared thinly across the surface, this layer of hardcore contained a high quantity of inclusions dominated by concrete and brick fragments.

Within the central and eastern extent of the trench the existing ground levels were turfed covered (context 2003) overlying a 0.08m deep layer of topsoil, this dark brown (10YR3/2) loam was dry, friable and contained a moderate quantity of inclusions of broken concrete block and metal work that appear to have been trampled into the surface of this layer and projected through the turf. The topsoil sealed a buried ploughsoil (context 2004), this medium brown (10YR4/4) loamy sand was moist, friable with a crumbly matrix and contained a low quantity of inclusions, namely the occasional water worn cobble. The surface of the ploughsoil was slightly undulating and was identified within 0.13m of the existing ground level. The layer measured up to 0.75m in depth and directly sealed the sub soil.

To the immediate east of the septic tank at 0.10m below the existing ground level the overburden was sealed a layer of animal waste (context 2001), this layer of well broken down manure was identified within the opposing sections of the trench. This dark grey brown (10YR3/2) silty loam was moist and well compacted with a low quantity of inclusions with the occasional water worn cobble. This layer of agricultural waste was directly associated with the former activities on site and had been deposited within the last number of years, the layer contained modern agricultural rubbish.

This layer sealed the sub soil interface (context 2002), the surface of this layer was identified at 0.45m below the existing ground level. This medium grey brown (10YR4/2) clayey loamy silt was moist, relatively plastic and well compacted. The layer contained a low quantity of inclusions, namely; water worn pebble and cobble. The layer was confined to the western extent of the trench i.e. adjacent to the septic tank and did not extend into the paddock to the east. It would appear that this deposit may be the same as context 1001.

Within the western extent of the trench the surface of the sub soil (context 2003) was identified at 0.85 m below the existing ground levels and was identified within the base of the excavation at 1.4m. This layer was highly varied in both matrix and colour, reflecting the nature of glacial drift, the interface between these variations was often clearly defined. Towards the western extent of the trench the deposit was medium orange brown (7.5YR4/4) clayey sand and was moist, loosely compacted with a high quantity of inclusions, namely; water worn cobble, pebble and large boulders together with sand lenses.

The quantity of sand increased towards the base of the trench, this pink orange (7.5YR5/6) deposit had a fine grained matrix with no inclusions. Towards the central area of the trench the proportion of sand within the sub soil increased, resulting in the instability of trench sections. Within the eastern extent of the trench the sub soil was dominated by an orange brown (10YR4/4) clay this moist, plastic and heavily compacted layer contains the occasional water worn cobble.

Soakaway A

Type: Service: Soakaway: machine
N.G.R: 44228 45694

Length: 2 m
Width: 2 m
Depth: 2.15 m

Planform: Square
Aligned: -

Context No's: 3000 - 3003

Plate No: -
Fig. No: 2

The soakaway was excavated into the paddock at the eastern terminus of Trench A. The existing ground levels were relatively level.

The turf covered (context 3000) surface was overlying a 0.08m deep layer of topsoil (context 3001) this dark brown (10YR3/2) loam was dry, friable and contained a low quantity of inclusions, namely water worn pebble.

The topsoil sealed a buried ploughsoil (context 3002), this medium brown (10YR4/4) loamy sand was moist, friable with a crumbly matrix and contained a low quantity of inclusions, namely the occasional water worn cobble. The surface of the ploughsoil was identified within 0.10m of the existing ground level. The layer measured up to 0.89m in depth and directly sealed the sub soil (context 3003).

This layer of orange brown (10YR4/4) clay was moist, plastic and heavily compacted. The sub soil contains a low quantity of inclusions with the occasional water worn cobble. The layer measured up to 0.90m in depth and was identified within the base of the excavation.

Trench A1

Type: Service: trench: branch: machine
N.G.R: 44227 45694

Length: 10 m
Width: 1 m
Depth: 1.35 m

Planform: Linear
Aligned: North East

Context No's: 4000 - 4003

Plate No: -
Fig. No: 2

The branch drain was excavated into the paddock on the northern side of the eastern extent of Trench A. The existing ground levels were relatively level.

The turf covered (context 4000) surface was overlying a 0.07m deep layer of topsoil (context 4001) this dark brown (10YR3/2) loam was dry, friable and contained a low quantity of inclusions, namely water worn pebble.

The topsoil sealed a buried ploughsoil (context 4002), this medium brown (10YR4/4) loamy sand was moist, friable with a crumbly matrix and contained a low quantity of inclusions, namely the occasional water worn cobble. The surface of the ploughsoil was identified within 0.11m of the existing ground level. The layer measured up to 0.80m in depth and directly sealed the sub soil (context 3003).

This layer of orange brown (10YR4/4) clay was moist, plastic and heavily compacted. The sub soil contains a low quantity of inclusions with the occasional water worn cobble. The layer measured up to 0.90m in depth and was identified within the base of the excavation.

Trench A2

Type: Service: trench: branch: machine
N.G.R: 44225 45694

Length: 10 m
Width: 1 m
Depth: 1.29 m

Planform: Linear
Aligned: North East

Context No's: 5000 - 5003

Plate No: -
Fig. No: 2

The branch drain was excavated into the paddock on the northern side of the central area of Trench A. The existing ground levels were relatively level.

The turf covered (context 5000) surface was overlying a 0.09m deep layer of topsoil (context 5001) this dark brown (10YR3/2) loam was dry, friable and contained a low quantity of inclusions, namely water worn pebble.

The topsoil sealed a buried ploughsoil (context 5002), this medium brown (10YR4/4) loamy sand was moist, friable with a crumbly matrix and contained a low quantity of inclusions, namely the occasional water worn cobble. The surface of the ploughsoil was identified within 0.14m of the existing ground level. The layer measured up to 0.50m in depth and directly sealed the sub soil (context 5003).

This layer of medium orange brown (7.5YR5/6) clayey sand was moist, loosely compacted with a moderate quantity of inclusions, namely; water worn pebble. The layer measured up to 0.65m in depth and was identified within the base of the excavation.

Trench A3

Type: Service: trench: branch: machine
N.G.R: 44228 45693

Length: 10 m
Width: 1 m
Depth: 1.47 m

Planform: Linear
Aligned: South East

Context No's: 6000 - 6003

Plate No: -
Fig. No: 2

The branch drain was excavated into the paddock on the southern side of the eastern extent of Trench A. The existing ground levels were relatively level.

The turf covered (context 6000) surface was overlying a 0.08m deep layer of topsoil (context 6001) this dark brown (10YR3/2) loam was dry, friable and contained a low quantity of inclusions, namely water worn pebble.

The topsoil sealed a buried ploughsoil (context 6002), this medium brown (10YR4/4) loamy sand was moist, friable with a crumbly matrix and contained a low quantity of inclusions, namely the occasional water worn cobble. The surface of the ploughsoil was identified within 0.12m of the existing ground level. The layer measured up to 0.92m in depth and directly sealed the sub soil (context 6003).

This layer of orange brown (10YR4/4) clay was moist, plastic and heavily compacted. The sub soil contains a low quantity of inclusions with the occasional water worn cobble. The layer measured up to 0.43m in depth and was identified within the base of the excavation.

Trench A4

Type: Service: trench: branch: machine
N.G.R: 44226 45692

Length: 10 m
Width: 1 m
Depth: 1.55 m

Planform: Linear
Aligned: South East

Context No's: 7000 - 7003

Plate No: -
Fig. No: 2

The branch drain was excavated into the paddock on the southern side of the central area of Trench A. The existing ground levels were relatively level.

The turf covered (context 7000) surface was overlying a 0.07m deep layer of topsoil (context 7001) this dark brown (10YR3/2) loam was dry, friable and contained a low quantity of inclusions, namely water worn pebble.

The topsoil sealed a buried ploughsoil (context 7002), this medium brown (10YR4/4) loamy sand was moist, friable with a crumbly matrix and contained a low quantity of inclusions, namely the occasional water worn cobble.

The surface of the ploughsoil was identified within 0.12m of the existing ground level.

The layer measured up to 0.15m in depth and directly sealed the sub soil (context 7003). The comparatively shallow depth of the ploughsoil within this trench would suggest that the surface of the sub soil is rising to the south, it is likely that the gently rising ground levels within the paddock to the south correspond directly to the nature of the glacial drift.

The sub soil consisted of a layer of medium orange brown (7.5YR5/6) clayey sand that was moist, loosely compacted with a moderate quantity of inclusions, namely; water worn pebble. The layer measured up to 1.28m in depth and was identified within the base of the excavation.

Septic Tank B

Type: Service: Sceptic: machine
N.G.R: 44224 45691

Length: 3.1 m
Width: 2.4 m
Depth: 5.5 m

Planform: Rectangular
Aligned: -

Context No's: 8000 - 8003
Plate No: 6
Fig. No: 2

The excavation was situated within the south eastern quadrant of the former farmyard. The existing ground levels sloped gently down to the south west.

The overburden (context 8000) associated with the demolition and removal the former agricultural building measured up to 0.90m in depth. This layer of medium brown (10YR3/3) sandy clay was moist, well compacted with a plastic matrix. The layer contained a high quantity of inclusions dominated by concrete, wood and brick fragments, together with modern agricultural rubbish. This layer of heavily disturbed ground was directly overlying the sub soil (context 8001).

The sub soil varied slightly within the 4.60 m deep section, becoming increasingly plastic towards the base of excavation together with a reduction in the quantity of inclusions. Overall the layer consisted of a orange brown (7.5YR4/4) sandy clay that was moist and well compacted with a low to moderate quantity of inclusions, namely; water worn pebble and sand blotching.

No archaeological features or deposits were identified within this trench.

Trench B

Type: Service: Septic: machine
N.G.R: 44226 45692

Length: 60 m
Width: 1.10 m
Depth: 4.60 m

Planform: Linear
Aligned: East

Context No's: 9000 - 9004

Plate No: -
Fig. No: 2

The trench was excavated from the eastern side of Septic Tank B in a easterly direction, 15m was excavated within the curtilage of the former farmyard, the remaining 45m was excavated into the small paddock within the eastern extent of the study area. The existing ground levels within the former farmyard slope gently down to the south west, the ground levels rise steeply into the adjacent paddock associated with a steep bank with a west facing aspect, thereafter the existing ground levels within the paddock fall on a gentle slope to the east south east. The varying levels within the topography along the line of the trench accounted for the substantial depth of this trench (4.60m).

The length of trench excavated within the former farmyard had been subjected to the same level of ground disturbance as was recorded during the excavation of Septic Tank B.

The overburden (context 9000) associated with the demolition and removal the former agricultural building measured up to 0.25m in depth. This layer of medium brown (10YR3/3) sandy clay was moist, well compacted with a plastic matrix. The layer contained a high quantity of inclusions dominated by concrete, wood and brick fragments, together with modern agricultural rubbish. This layer of heavily disturbed ground was directly overlying the sub soil (context 9001).

Within the central and eastern extent of the trench the existing ground levels were turfed covered (context 9002) overlying a 0.16m deep layer of topsoil (context 9003), this dark brown (10YR3/2) loam was dry, friable and contained a low quantity of inclusions. The topsoil sealed a buried ploughsoil (context 9004), this medium brown (10YR4/4) loamy sand was moist, friable with a crumbly matrix and contained a low quantity of inclusions, namely the occasional water worn cobble. The surface of the ploughsoil was identified within 0.20m of the existing ground level. The layer measured up to 0.20m in depth and directly sealed the sub soil (context 9001). Once again it would appear that the shallow depth of the ploughsoil within this trench corresponds with the rising sub soil levels to the south.

The sub soil dominated the stratigraphy within the trench, as with the sub soil previously identified across the site it varied in nature and colour. Towards the western extent of the trench the sub soil was an orange brown (7.5YR4/4) sandy clay that was moist and well compacted with a low to moderate quantity of inclusions, namely; water worn pebble and sand blotching. The layer became increasingly plastic towards the base of the excavation. Within the central area of the trench the deposit was medium orange brown (7.5YR4/4) clayey sand and was moist, loosely compacted with a moderate quantity of inclusions, namely; water worn cobble, pebble and large boulders together with sand lenses. The quantity of sand increased towards the base of the trench, this pink orange (5YR4/6) deposit had a fine grained matrix with no inclusions. Towards the eastern extent of the trench the sub soil consisted of pure sand and was identified within 0.65m of the existing ground level.

Soakaway B

Type: Service: Soakaway: machine
N.G.R: 44229 45692

Length: 3 m
Width: 2 m
Depth: 5.0 m

Planform: Rectangular
Aligned: East

Context No's: 10,000 - 10,003

Plate No: -
Fig. No: 2

The soakaway was excavated into the paddock at the eastern terminus of Trench B. The existing ground levels were relatively level.

The turf covered (context 10,000) surface was overlying a 0.10m deep layer of topsoil (context 10,001) this dark brown (10YR3/2) loam was dry, friable and contained a low quantity of inclusions, namely water worn pebble.

The topsoil sealed a buried ploughsoil (context 10,002), this medium brown (10YR4/4) loamy sand was moist, friable with a crumbly matrix and contained a low quantity of inclusions, namely the occasional water worn cobble. The surface of the ploughsoil was identified within 0.14m of the existing ground level. The layer measured up to 0.30m in depth and directly sealed the sub soil (context 10,003).

The sub soil varied slightly over the 4.56m deep section of this deposit, becoming increasingly plastic towards the base of excavation together with a reduction in the quantity of inclusions. Overall the layer consisted of a orange brown (7.5YR4/4) sandy clay that was moist and well compacted with a low to moderate quantity of inclusions, namely; water worn pebble and sand blotching.

No archaeological features or deposits were identified within this trench.

Trench B1

Type: Service: trench: branch: machine
N.G.R: 44227 45690

Length: 10 m
Width: 1 m
Depth: 4.88 m

Planform: Linear
Aligned: South East

Context No's: 11,000 - 11,003

Plate No: -
Fig. No: 2

The branch drain was excavated into the paddock on the southern side of the central area of Trench A. The existing ground levels were relatively level.

The turf covered (context 11,000) surface was overlying a 0.08m deep layer of topsoil (context 11,001) this dark brown (10YR3/2) loam was dry, friable and contained a low quantity of inclusions, namely water worn pebble.

The topsoil sealed a buried ploughsoil (context 11,002), this medium brown (10YR4/4) loamy sand was friable and contained a low quantity of inclusions, namely the occasional water worn cobble. The surface of the ploughsoil was identified within 0.12m of the existing ground level. The layer measured up to 0.15m in depth and directly sealed the sub soil (context 11,003).

The sub soil consisted of a layer of medium orange brown (7.5YR5/6) clayey sand that was moist, loosely compacted with a moderate quantity of inclusions, namely; water worn pebble. The layer measured up to 1.28m in depth and was identified within the base of the excavation.