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Haughley Moat: an auger survey

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Haughley Moat: an auger survey

by

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Summary

In October 2010 BA-E were commissioned to undertake an auger survey and radiocarbon dating program in advance of remedial restorations work on a motte and bailey castle site, Haughley, Suffolk. The proposed works involved the removal of vegetation and the deepening of the moat profile which may disturb in situ medieval deposits. The auger survey characterised the general sequence of deposition to be represented by a poorly humified leaf litter sealed by material that had eroded out of the motte and the moat ditch sides. The leaf litter indicates that the moat contains material that probably dates from the abandonment of the site rather than from the working life of a castle. Documentary sources indicate this site was relatively shortlived being destroyed during Prince Henry's rebellion in 1173 so occupation deposits were not expected. There was, however, evidence for something that obstructed the auger in the base of the moat which may relate to the destruction of the stone foundations of the keep. Radiocarbon dating confirmed that even at a depth of 2.50m the material that infills the moat is fairly recent and therefore can be removed to reinstate the moat.

KEYWORDS: Haughley, Suffolk, organics, Radiocarbon dating

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1. INTRODUCTION

October 2010 BA-E In were commissioned by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service to undertake an auger survey at the motte and bailey castle at Haughley, Suffolk in order to recover material suitable for radiocarbon dating (Fig.1). proposed remedial conservation works include removal of vegetation and a desilting of the moat in order to allow it to reflood. This is to prevent access to the monument which is suffering from erosion and vandalism.

The castle is thought to have been constructed sometime in the 1100's in the reign of King Stephen by Hugh de Montfort. It is one of the largest motte and bailey castles still extant but probably one of the most short-lived, being destroyed in 1173. The revolt of Prince Henry against his father King Henry II led to its destruction by the Earl of Leicester and his Flemish army.

The auger survey was designed to characterise the deposits infilling the moat and identify any intact medieval deposits through radiocarbon dating. The locations of the auger transects were restricted due to parts of the moat being too soft underfoot or too wet to access. The main areas that were accessible were on the east side, at the junction between the motte ditch and the bailey ditch, and the northern arm of the motte ditch.

2. METHODS

2.1 Auger Survey

The auger survey was undertaken using an Eikjelcamp gouge corer. The stratigraphy of the deposits was logged in the field using the Troels Smith (1955) method and the locations of the cores were recorded using a dGPS.

2.2 Radiocarbon Dating

Two samples of roundwood were submitted for radiocarbon dating to Beta Analytic Inc., Florida, to establish the chronology of sediment accumulation. The sample underwent acid/alkali/acid treatment prior to AMS dating.

3. PRELIMINARY RESULTS OF FIELDWORK

The transects (1, 2, 10, 11 and 12) located at the motte and bailey ditch junction characterised the deposits as follows (Fig.2). Full core logs can be found in Appendix I.

Motte and Bailey Junction

The basal deposit of the moat was a black poorly humified leaf litter. This overlay the natural chalky grey clay which the moat is cut through. The leaf litter was overlain for the most part by a grey brown silt clay which contained coarse flint and sand particles. The upper deposits recorded in Cores 8 and 9 in Transect 3 have successive layers of coarser material overlying the basal deposits (Figs. 3 and 4). In this area the

motte is particularly damaged and shows sign of erosion. The layers of flint rich silty sand most likely relate to erosion episodes of the motte material.

Motte ditch

The northern arm of the motte ditch was characterised in Transects 3-9. The deepest part of the ditch was located in Transects 6 and 7 being up to 2.60m deep. The ditch became shallower to the east, in Transects 3-5, being 1.10-1.75m deep (Fig). This may correspond to a widening of the ditch to the west.

The basal deposit in this section of the ditch conforms to the poorly humified leaf litter seen in the motte and bailey junction. In places this overlay a gritty brown grey silt clay, although this was an intermittent deposit and not seen in all the cores. For the most part this leaf litter was overlain by a coarse brown silt clay although the sequence in Core 9, Transect 3 was more varied. The upper deposits were a coarse sandy silt material interbedded with organic silt deposits suggesting that periods of erosion have led to the deposition of this coarser material

The cores in Transects 8 and 9 were obstructed at about 0.60-0.90m below ground level. The auger was unable to penetrate beyond this depth and was clearly striking something extensive and tough, like stone.

Dating

A sample of wood was recovered from Core 10 at 0.79m below ground level for radiocarbon dating (Table 1). The results show a modern age, i.e. the dated fraction incorporates material living within the last 50 years. This may indicate that this horizon is not secure and has become contaminated from overlying deposits.

A second piece of wood was selected from lower down the profile from Core 21, Transect 6 at 2.50m below ground level. This was to ensure minimal contamination from modern deposits. However, this deposit also proved to be modern suggesting that no intact sediments from the life of the castle survive in these locations.

4. CONCLUSIONS

The motte and bailey castle at Haughley was a fairly short lived structure and was not rebuilt after it fell in 1173. The brief occupation and use of the site contributed to the lack of material infilling the moat. The basal deposits very much resembled the upper deposits and primarily of poorly humified leaf litter. This suggests that the deposits in the base of the ditch are representative of a vegetated therefore and abandoned site and are not indicative of occupation.

The radiocarbon dating has shown that the basal leaf litter material to be recent, being subject to active biological processes. It seems clear that the moat has not been subject to the build up of material that is usually expected. The deposits within it do not date from the life of the castle and therefore will not contribute to the understanding of the castle within its landscape

The current state of the motte is poor with several trees uprooted and clearly subject to damage from unauthorised public access. The upper deposits in the northern arm of the moat show the effects of this damage with layers of erosion material which in all likelihood derive from the motte. The presence of an obstruction between Transects 8 and 9 may be large pieces of stone. The keep would have been built out of

wood but the castle foundations are listed as being made of stone. It is possible that once the keep was destroyed only the stone foundations remained and through neglect and vandalism may have fallen into the base of the moat.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER ANALYSIS

The radiocarbon dating has shown the moat to be infilled with recent deposits derived from the vegetation growing at the site. This material may therefore be removed under archaeological supervision to reinstate the moat.

6. ARCHIVE

The remaining radiocarbon samples are currently stored at BAE and will be held for a maximum of one year.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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REFERENCES

Troels-Smith, J. (1955). Karakterisering af lose jordater (characterisation of unconsolidated sediments). *Denmarks Geologiske Undersogelse*, Series IV/3, 10, 73.

Figures

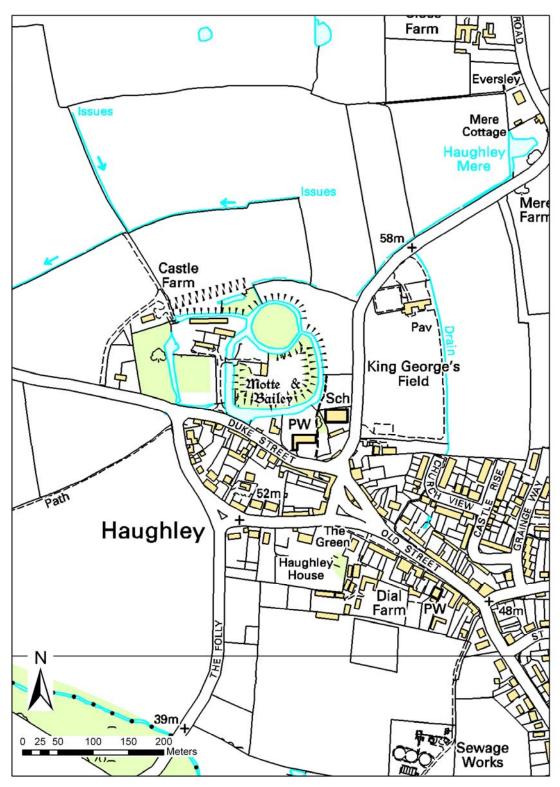


Figure 1: Site location

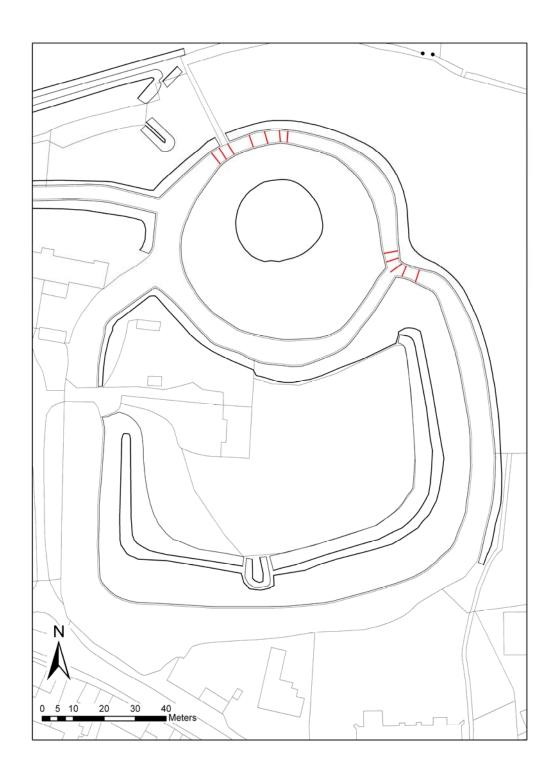


Figure 2: Transects

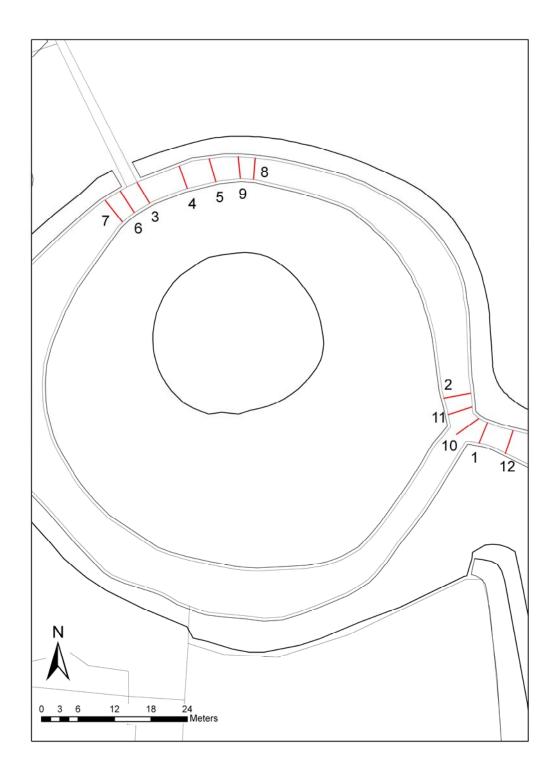


Figure 3: Transect numbers

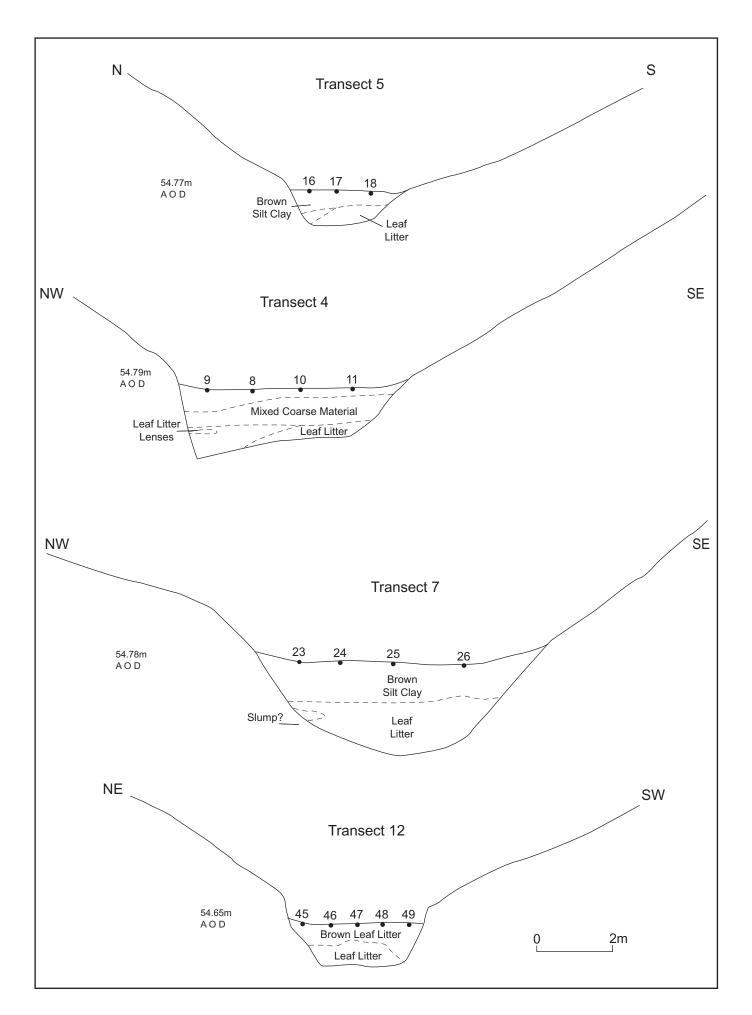


Fig.4

Table 1: Radiocarbon dates

Lab number	Material	13C/12C	Radiocarbon	Calibrated
and depth			Age	Age
BETA-287326	wood	-27.2o/oo	Cal BP 280 to 170	Cal AD 1670 to
Core 10, 0.79m			and Cal BP 150 to	1780 and Cal AD
			0 Cal BP 0 to 0	1800 to 1950 Cal
				AD 1950 to 1960
BETA-288270	wood	-25.60/00	Cal BP290 to 0	Cal AD 1660 to
Core 21, 2.50m				1960

APPENDIX 1 - BA2131 Haughley Moat core logs

Transect 1 Core 1					
0-0.55m		St 0 .g1, Th1 rown silt,	El 0 abundan	Dr 2 t twigs le	UB 0 eaves, modern plant remains
0.55-0.90m	Da 1 Ga3, A Very sti		El 0 blue grey	Dr 2	UB 1 undant chalk fragments, no organics
Core 2 0-0.65m 0.65-0.90m	Da 5 Dh2, A	covered, t St 0 .g1, Th1 oorly hun	El 0	Dr 2 ganic silt	UB 0
0.90-1.30m	Da 1 Ga3, A Very sti		El 0 blue grey	Dr 2	UB 4 undant chalk fragments, no organics, hit a stone
Core 3					
0-0.90m 0.90-1.10m	Da 5 Dh2, A	covered, t St 0 .g1, Th1 oorly hun	El 0	Dr 2 ganic silt	UB 0
1.10-1.25m	Da 1 Ga3, A Very sti	_	El 0 blue grey	Dr 1	UB 1 undant chalk fragments
Core 4 0-0.45m 0.45-0.81m	Da 5 Dh2, A	covered, t St 0 .g1, Th1 oorly hun	El 0	Dr 2 ganic silt	UB 0
1.10-1.25m Transect 2 Core 5	Da 1 Ga3, A Very sti		El 0 blue grey	Dr 3	UB 1 undant chalk fragments
0-0.78m 0.78-1.21m	Da 1 Ga3, A		El 0	Dr 2	UB 1 undant chalk fragments, hit a stone

Core 6 0-1.13m 1.13-1.17m	Da 3 Dh2, A	overed, to St 0 g1, Th1, organic si	El 0 ptm+	Dr 2 humified	UB 0 l organics, twigs, possible mollusc frags, hit a
Core 7 0-1.00m 1.00-1.20m	Da 5 Dh2, A	overed, to St 0 g1, Th1 porly hun	El 0	Dr 2	UB 0
1.20-1.33m		St 0 a 1, ptm+ organic si		Dr 1 lant pale	UB 1 rootlets, occ mollusc frags
1.33-1.94m	Da 1 Ga3, A Very stic	-	El 0 olue grey	Dr 2 clay, abu	UB 3 andant chalk fragments, hit a stone
Transect 3 Core 8 0-0.15m	Da 1 Ga3, A Brown s	-	El 0 with mod	Dr 2 dern root	UB 0 s throughout
0.15-1.40m				Dr 2 bands of	UB 1 sand and chalk frags at base (slump material), occ
1.40-1.45m	Da 5 Dh2, A organic		El 0 ck poorly	Dr 3	UB 2 d leaf litter
1.45m	Base	•			
Core 9 0-0.60m	Da 1 Ggmin		El 0 ry coarse	Dr 1 sand, occ	UB 0 c silt and modern roots
0.60-0.90m		St 0 g1, Th1, grey sand		Dr 2 ge chalk f	UB 1 frags, flint, dark rootlets and poorly humified leaf
0.90-0.92m	Da 4 Dh1, A Black po		El 0 nified org	Dr 3	UB 1 visible plant material

0.92-0.99m		St 0 g2, Dh+, own silty		Dr 3	UB 1 ad coarse material, organics
0.99-1.09m	Da 4 Dh1, A Black p	-	EI 0 nified org	Dr 3 ganic silt,	UB 4 woody fragments
1.09-1.22m		St 0 g2, Dh+, own silty		Dr 3	UB 4 ad coarse material, organics
1.22-1.60m		St 0 g2, Dh+, sticky silt		Dr 3	UB 1 frags and pale rootlets
1.60-1.75m		St 0 g2, Dh+, rey wet si			UB 1 scs, plant material, chalk frags
1.75-2.00m		St 0 g1, Ggma		Dr 3	UB 1
Core 10					
0-0.76m					UB 0 ags, wood, mollusc frags and well humified
0.76-0.98m		St 0 Ggmin2, I ack sandy		Dr 3	UB 1 towards base
0.98-1.25m	Da 4 Ag1, I Black p	St 0 Oh3 oorly hun	El 0 nified lea	Dr 2	UB 1
Core 11	г				
0-0.90m		St 0 Ggmin1, I coarse silt		Dr 2 at frags, v	UB 0 voody frags, becoming siltier with depth
0.90-1.15m	Da 4 Ag1, I Black p	St 0 Oh3 oorly hun	El 0 nified lea	Dr 2	UB 1

1.15-1.25m		St 0 .g2, Dh+,			UB 1 rags, wood, and well humified organics
1.25-1.50m		St 0 g1, Ggma		Dr 2 agments	UB 3
Transect 4 Core 12					
0-0.47m		St 0 .g 1, Ggm orown silt		Dr 2 ge chalk	UB 0 pieces, occ rootlets
0.47-0.80m		St 0 h1, Ggmagrey stiff		Dr 2 black or	UB 1 ganics and chalk frags
0.80-0.90m		St 0 s2, Dh+, wn silty o		Dr 2 chalk frag	UB 1 gs and organics, hit a stone?
Core 13					
0-0.57m		St 0 s2, Dh+, wet silt o		Dr 1 chalk frag	UB 1 gs and poorly humified organics
0.57-1.05m	Da 3/4 Ag3,A Dark br	St 0 s1, Dh++ rown orga	El 0 , Ggmaj+ nnic wet s	Dr 1 silt clay, 1	UB 1 eaf litter, hit stone at base
Core 14					
0-0.40m	Da 3 Ag2,A Brown	St 0 s2 silt clay	El 0	Dr 2	UB 0
0.40-1.20m		St 0 0h2, Ggm orown mo		Dr 2 rly humif	UB 1 Tied organic silt, hit a stone at base
Core 15					
0-0.80m		St 0 s2, Dh++ silt clay v		Dr 2 ern leaf li	UB 0

Transect 5 Core 16					
0-0.35m	Da 3 Ag2,As Brown s		El 0	Dr 2	UB 0
0.35-0.60m	_	St 0 s2, Dh, G low brow		Dr 2 y, chalk t	UB 1 frags and occ organics
0.60-0.90m		St 0 s2, Ggmir grey gritty		Dr 3	UB 1 lk and rootlets
Core 17					
0-0.38m	Da 3 Ag2,As Brown s		El 0	Dr 2	UB 0
0.38-0.94m	Da 4 Ag1, D Black pe	St 0 h3 oorly hun	El 0 nified lea	Dr 2 f litter	UB 1
Core 18					
0-0.40m	Da 3 Ag2,As Brown s		El 0	Dr 2	UB 0
0.40-0.76m	Da 4 Ag1, D Black pe	St 0 h3 oorly hun	El 0 nified lea	Dr 2 f litter	UB 1
0.76-1.10m		St 0 g1, Ggma		Dr 3 alk fragn	UB 3

Transect 6 Core 19

0-0.78m	Da	St	El	Dr	UB
	3	0	0	2	0
	Ag2,As	s2, Ggmi	n+		
	Brown	gritty silt	clay		
0.78-1.00m	Da	St	El	Dr	UB
	2	0	0	2	1
	Ag2,As	s2, Ggmi	n+, Dh+		
	Grey gr	itty silt c	lay, occ c	halk and	rootlets

1.00-1.20m	Da 4 Ag1, I Black p	St 0 Oh3 Doorly hu	El 0 mified lea	Dr 2 af litter	UB 1
1.20-1.50m		St 0 s2, Ggmi gritty silt			UB 1 c frags
1.50-2.00m		St 0 ag1, Ggm y, grey cl		Dr 3 halk frag	UB 3 gments
Core 20					
0-1.14m		St 2 ag1, Ggm own silt c		Dr 2	UB 0 deposit
1.14-2.40m		St 3 Dh3, Ggm boorly hu		Dr 2 af litter, o	UB 4 occasional bands of brown grey silt clay 5cm thick
2.40-2.60m		St 0 As2, Dh+, own grey			UB 1 numified monocot remains, chalk frags
2.60-2.63m	Da 4 Ag1, E Black p	St 0 Dh3 poorly hu	El 0 mified le	Dr 2 af litter	UB 1
2.63-2.66m		St 0 ag1, Ggm y, grey cl		Dr 3	UB 3 gments
Core 21					
0-0.55m		St 0 s2, Ggmi gritty silt		Dr 1	UB 0
0.55-1.20m				Dr 2 af litter, l	UB 4 aminated with grey silt clay 10cm thick
1.20-2.60m	Da 4 Ag1, E Black p	St 0 Oh3 poorly hu	El 0 mified lea	Dr 2 af litter	UB 1

2.60m		St 0 Ag1, Ggm y, grey cl	El 0 naj+ lay with c	Dr 2 halk fra	UB 3
Core 22					
0-0.63m		St 0 ss2, Ggmi gritty silt		Dr 1	UB 0
0.63-1.28m				Dr 2 af litter,	UB 4 laminated with grey silt clay 10cm thick
1.28-1.55m Transect 7 Core 23		St 0 Ag1, Ggm y, grey cl	El 0 naj+ lay with c	Dr 3	UB 3 gments
0-0.97m		St 0 ss2, Ggmi gritty sili		Dr 1	UB 0
0.97-1.09m			El 0 , Ggmin+ silt clay,		UB 1 orly humified organics
1.09-1.16m	Da 4 Ag1, I Black p		El 0 mified le	Dr 2 af litter	UB 1
1.16-1.36m		St 0 As2, Ggn grey silt	El 0 nin+ clay, cha	Dr 2 lk fragm	UB 1 nents
1.36-1.42m		St 0 Ag1, Ggm y, grey cl	El 0 naj+ lay with c	Dr 3	UB 3 gments
Core 24					
Too wet unable	to recove	er			
Core 25					

Da St El Dr UB
3 0 0 1 0
Ag2,As2, Ggmin+
Brown gritty silt clay

1.00-2.37m	Da 4 Ag1, Di Black po	St 0 h3 porly hun	EI 0 nified lea	Dr 1 f litter, re	UB 1 eed frags
Core 26					
0-0.84m		St 0 2, Ggmir gritty silt		Dr 1	UB 0
0.84-1.80m	Da 4 Ag1, Di Black po	St 0 h3 porly hun	El 0 nified lea	Dr 1	UB 1
Transect 8 Core 27					
0-0.50m		St 0 2, Ggmir gritty silt		Dr 1	UB 0
0.50-100m	Da 2 As3, Ag Stiff, dry	St 0 g1, Ggma , grey cla		Dr 3 nalk fragr	UB 3 ments
Core 28/29/30					
0-0.60m	_	St 0 2, Ggmir gritty silt			UB 0 , hit stone? Unable to continue
Transect 9 Core 31					
0-0.60m		St 0 2, Ggmir gritty silt		Dr 1	UB 0
0.60-1.00m	Da 2 As3, Ag Stiff, dry	St 0 g1, Ggma		Dr 3	UB 3
Core 32	Siiii, diy	, gicy cia	y with th	iaik iragi	nents
0-0.85m	Da 4 Ag1, Di Black po		EI 0 nified lea	Dr 1 f litter, p	UB 0 oorly recovered as wet
0.85-1.00m		St 0 g1, Ggma			UB 3 mollusc fragments, hit stone at base

Core 33					
0-0.40m		St 0 As2, Ggr n gritty s		Dr 2	UB 0
0.40-1.00m	Da 4 Ag1, Black		El 0 numified	Dr 1 leaf litter	UB 1 poorly r
Core 34					
0-1.00m	Da 4 Agl, Black		El 0 numified	Dr 1 leaf litter	UB 1 poorly r
Core 35					
0-0.80m	Da 4 Ag1, Black		El 0 numified	Dr 1	UB 1 poorly r
Transect 10 Core 36					
0-0.40m	Da 3 Ag1, Brown		El 0 humified	Dr 1	UB 0
0.40-0.75m			El 0 a+, Ggmin et grey sil	Dr 2 n+ t clay, ch	UB 1 alk and o
0.75-1.00m		St 0 Ag1, Gg lry, grey		Dr 3	UB 2
Core 37					
0-1.30m	too w	et to reco	over		
Core 38					
0-1.30m	too w	et to reco	over		

UB

Transect 11

St 0

Da

El

Ag1, Dh3 Brown poorly humified leaf litter, very wet

Dr

Core 39

0-0.78m

0 0 40	D.	C 14	171	D.:	IID
0-0.40m		St 0 As2, Ggi n gritty s		Dr 2	UB 0
Core 41					
0-0.90m	too w	et to reco	over		
0.90-1.50m		St 0 Ag1, Gg lry, grey		Dr 3 chalk fra	UB 2
Core 42					
0-0.90m	Too v	vet to rec	cover		
0.90-1.00m		St 0 Ag1, Gg lry, grey		Dr 3	UB 2
Core 43					
0-1.30m	Da 3 Ag1, Brow		El 0 humified	Dr 1	UB 0
1.30-1.50m		St 0 Ag1, Gg lry, grey		Dr 3	UB 2
Core 44					
0-1.40m	too w	et to reco	over		
1.40-1.50m		St 0 Ag1, Gg lry, grey		Dr 3	UB 2
Transect 12 Core 45					
0-0.40m		St 0 As2, Ggi		Dr 2	UB 0
Core 46			J		
0-0.45m	Da 3 Ag1,		El 0	Dr 1	UB 0
	Brow	n poorly	humified	i ieai iitte	r, very we

	4 Δα1 D	0 h3	0	1	1
	Ag1, Dh3 Black poorly humified leaf litter				
1.10-1.50m		St 0 g1, Ggma		Dr 3 nalk fragr	UB 2
Core 47					
0-0.80m	Da 3 Ag1, D Brown p	St 0 h3 poorly hu	El 0 mified le	Dr 1 af litter,	UB 0
0.80-1.00m	Da 4 Ag1, D Black p	St 0 h3 oorly hun	El 0 mified lea	Dr 1 f litter	UB 1
1.00-1.50m		St 0 g1, Ggma		Dr 3	UB 2 ments
Core 48					
0-0.45m	Da 3 Ag1, D Brown p	St 0 h3 poorly hu	El 0 mified le	Dr 1 af litter, v	UB 0
0.45-1.10m	Da 4 Ag1, D Black p	St 0 h3 oorly hun	El 0 nified lea	Dr 1	UB 1
1.10-1.50m		St 0 g1, Ggma		Dr 3	UB 2
Core 49					
0-0.50m	Da 3 Ag1, D Brown p	St 0 h3 poorly hu	El 0 mified le	Dr 1 af litter, v	UB 0
0.50m-1.00m		St 0 g1, Ggma		Dr 3 nalk fragr	UB 2 ments