

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

SCCAS REPORT No. 2009/225

No. 8 The Street, Herringswell HGW 018

A. Tester
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www.suffolkcc.gov.uk/e-and-t/archaeology

Lucy Robinson, County Director of Environment and Transport
Endeavour House, Russel Road, Ipswich, IP1 2BX.

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HER Information

Planning Application No: F/2009/0285/FUL

Date of Fieldwork: 04/09/2009

Grid Reference: TL 7232 7017

Funding Body: Mr Nunn

Curatorial Officer: Jess Tipper

Project Supervisor: Andrew Tester

Oasis Reference: 1-64875

Digital report submitted to Archaeological Data Service:
<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit>

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Contents

Summary

	Page
1. Introduction and methodology	1
2. Results	1
3. The Finds	3
4. Discussion	8
5. Archive deposition	8
6. List of contributors and acknowledgements	9

List of Figures

1. Site location	2
2. Trench plan and sections	3

List of Tables

1. Finds quantities	6
2. Pottery catalogue by context	6

List of Appendices

1. Brief and specification
2. Context list

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Summary

Archaeological monitoring was carried out during the excavation of footings for a building extension at No 8 The Street, Herringswell. This exposed a ditch that has been dated from pottery to the Early medieval period. The ditch also contained struck, and burnt flint, and charcoal, which probably came from an earlier feature dating from the Late Bronze Age or Iron Age.

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1. Introduction and methodology

An archaeological monitoring was carried out during the excavation of footing trenches for a small extension to the rear of 8 The Street, Herringswell. The work was carried out in accordance with a Brief and Specification by Dr Jess Tipper on planning application F/2009/0285/FUL. The fieldwork was carried out by Andrew Tester on 4th September 2009. The site lies at c.17m AOD. Interest in the site was generated by the recording of a scatter of medieval pottery from the properties adjoining No. 8 to the south west (HGW 012). The excavation of the footings was carried out with a mini digger and the trenching was constantly monitored. Hand excavation was carried out where features were identified. A digital photographic record was made of the site and is in archive. Sections were drawn at a scale of 1:20. An oasis online database form has been completed for this site ref. suffolkc1-64875

2. Results

Details of the work are shown in Figure 2. The footing trenches were 0.6m wide and between 1.1m and 1.3m deep (the latter depth was caused by the extra excavation of ditch 0002). Beneath the broken concrete slab the trench was filled to a depth of between 0.7m and 0.8m of homogenous mid grey/brown sand with no stratification, 0005. In the west and north trenches there was a c. 0.2m layer of grey sand with some silt, 0004, which overlay natural yellow sand. In the eastern trench the grey sand was cut by a ditch 0002 which was aligned approximately north-northwest to south-southeast (Figure 2). This ditch contained a single main fill of dark brown sand and silt with some charcoal, chalk flecks and occasional stones including burnt and struck flint, 0003. The base of the ditch was cut into natural yellow sand.

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Figure 1. Site Location

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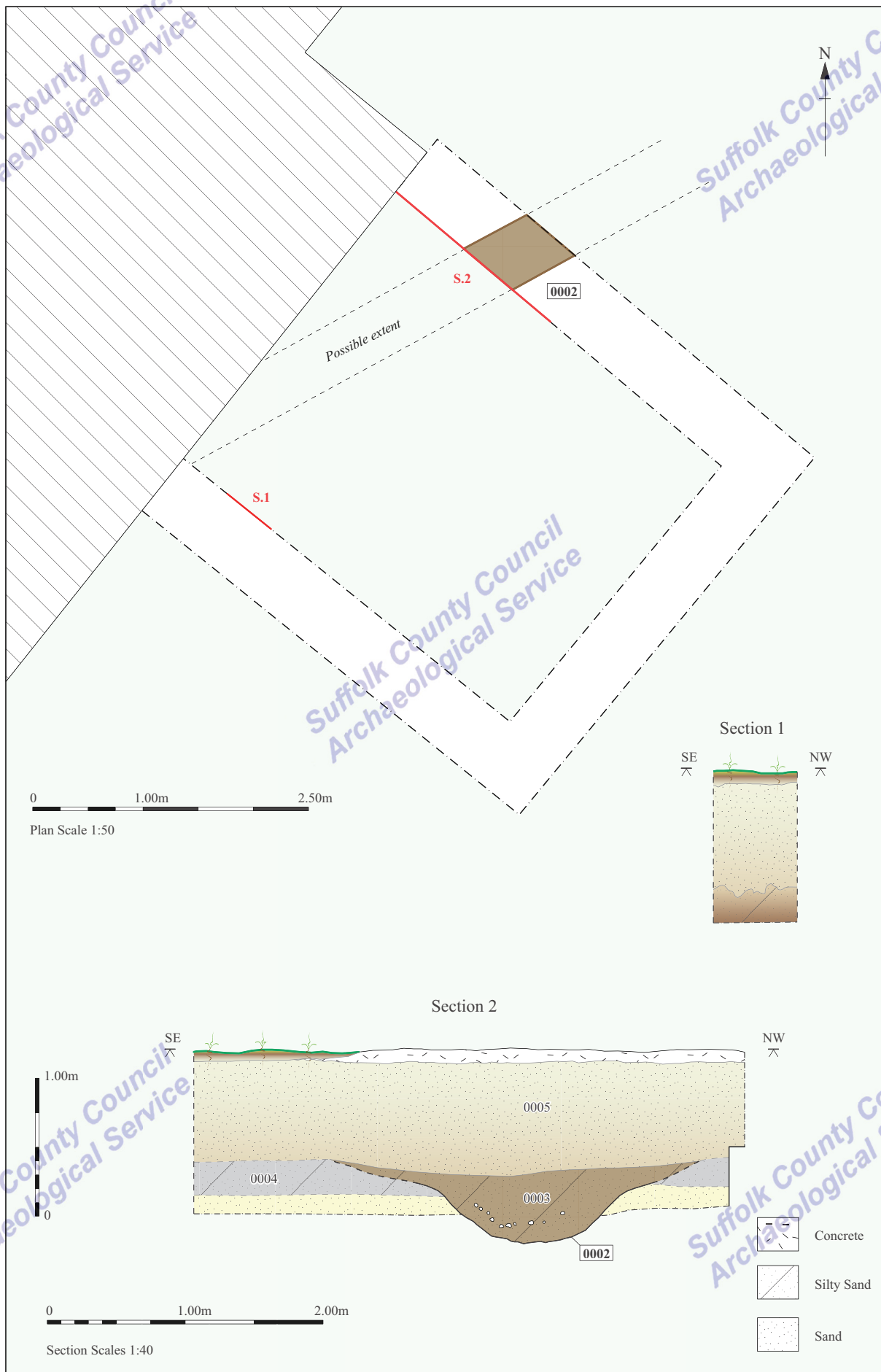


Figure 2. Plan and sections

3. The Finds

Richenda Goffin

Introduction

Finds were collected from a single context, as shown in the table below.

Context	Pottery		Fired clay		Flint		Burnt flint		Miscellaneous	Spotdate
	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g		
0002	5	34	1	31	2	18	7	225	3 frags animal bone @ 7g	L12th-14 th C
Total	5	34	1	31	2	18	7	225		

Table 1. Finds quantities

Pottery

Five fragments of pottery were recovered from the monitoring weighing 0.034kg. An abraded base of a St Neots-type ware vessel was identified, with a sherd of Thetford-type ware which has diamond-shaped rouletted decoration, dating to the Late Saxon period. Two sherds of medieval coarseware were also present (L12th-14th C), one of which has a pale orange sandy with a grey core and contains occasional sub-angular flint inclusions.

Ceramic building material

A single fragment of fired clay was identified. It is pale orange with pale grey patches and is made in a medium sandy fabric with moderate chalk inclusions up to 6mm in length. No structural impressions were recorded, so it is not possible to consider its function.

Flint (identifications by Colin Pendleton)

Two flints were recovered from the monitoring. One is an unpatinated sub-triangular flake with limited edge retouch which has been hard-hammer struck. The second fragment is an unpatinated squat flake with natural striking platform, re-utilising an earlier patinated flake with limited crude, unpatinated edge retouch. This flake was probably originally worked in the Mesolithic or Neolithic periods, but has subsequently been worked in the later prehistoric period. Both flints date to the Bronze Age to Iron Age.

Burnt Flint

Seven fragments of burnt flint recovered from this context were associated with the worked flints and are likely to be of the same date.

Animal bone

Three small fragments of animal bone were collected, one of which is likely to be a bird bone (0.007kg).

4. Discussion

The evidence from the monitoring revealed a substantial deposit of homogenous sand above archaeological levels; this is likely to be a ploughed soil and, because it is so deep, redeposited material that may date from the construction of the house. Beneath this Ditch 0003 produced Early medieval pottery that suggests there was settlement of this period on the site. This is of particular interest because the site lies over 500m from the medieval church of Herringswell and suggests that there was either an earlier focus of activity away from the church, or that Herringswell was much larger than it is today. The dedication of the church is to St Etelbert, which is an early foundation and therefore likely to have predated the infilling of the ditch. It is difficult to be certain of the alignment of the ditch because it was only seen in one narrow trench but it looks as if it was parallel to The Street, but set back about 45m. It could be a boundary that ran behind the properties that faced onto The Street.

The density of prehistoric settlement, as evidenced by the charcoal, struck and burnt flint, is difficult to determine as settlement of this period tends to be more scattered but the survival of sealed deposits is noteworthy given the intense ploughing, which has occurred in the surrounding fields.

Andrew Tester
September 2009

5. Archive deposition

Paper and photographic archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds archive store

Digital archive: T:arc\archive field projects\Herringswell\HGW 018

The finds are located in the parish store in Bury St Edmunds.

6. List of contributors and acknowledgements

The project was funded by Mr & Mrs Nunn and the work was carried out in accordance with a brief and specification by Dr Jess Tipper (SCCAS Conservation team). The fieldwork was carried out and the project managed by Andrew Tester. Graphics were prepared by Crane Begg. Finds processing was carried out by Rebekah Pressler and the specialist finds report compiled by Richenda. Other specialist advice was provided by Colin Pendleton.

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Environment and Transport Service Delivery
9-10 The Churchyard, Shire Hall
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk
IP33 2AR

Appendix 1

Brief and Specification for Continuous Archaeological Recording

8 THE STREET, HERRINGSWELL, SUFFOLK (F/2009/0285/FUL)

Although this document is fundamental to the work of the specialist archaeological contractor the developer should be aware that certain of its requirements are likely to impinge upon the working practices of a general building contractor and may have financial implications

1. Background

- 1.1 Planning permission for the construction of a single storey rear extension at 8 The Street, Herringswell, Suffolk IP28 6ST (TL 723 701), has been granted by Forest Heath District Council conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (F/2009/0285/FUL).
- 1.2 Assessment of the available archaeological evidence indicates that the area affected by development can be adequately recorded by continuous archaeological recording during all groundworks (**Please contact the developer for an accurate plan of the development**).
- 1.3 This application is located in an area of archaeological importance recorded in the County Historic Environment Record, adjacent to a Medieval finds scatter (HER no. HGW 012). This is indicative of further medieval occupation deposits in this area. There is high potential for early occupation deposits to be disturbed by this development in view of its proximity to the known remains. Aspects of the proposed works would cause significant ground disturbance with the potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.
- 1.4 In accordance with the standards and guidance produced by the Institute of Field Archaeologists this brief should not be considered sufficient to enable the total execution of the project. A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) based upon this brief and the accompanying outline specification of minimum requirements, is an essential requirement. This must be submitted by the developers, or their agent, to the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (9-10 The Churchyard, Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR; telephone/fax: 01284 352443) for approval. The work must not commence until this office has approved both the archaeological contractor as suitable to undertake the work, and the WSI as satisfactory, and until confirmation has been sought by the applicant from the Local Planning Authority. The WSI will *provide the basis for measurable standards* and will be used to establish whether the requirements of the planning condition will be adequately met.
- 1.5 Before commencing work the project manager must carry out a risk assessment and liaise with the site owner, client and the Conservation Team of SCCAS (SCCAS/CT) in ensuring that all potential risks are minimised.

1.6 All arrangements for the excavation of the site, the timing of the work, access to the site, the definition of the precise area of landholding and area for proposed development are to be defined and negotiated by the archaeological contractor with the commissioning body.

1.7 The responsibility for identifying any constraints on field-work (e.g. Scheduled Monument status, Listed Building status, public utilities or other services, tree preservation orders, SSSIs, wildlife sites &c., ecological considerations rests with the commissioning body and its archaeological contractor. The existence and content of the archaeological brief does not over-ride such constraints or imply that the target area is freely available.

1.8 Detailed standards, information and advice to supplement this brief are to be found in *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14, 2003.

1.9 The Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (revised 2001) should be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project and in drawing up the report.

2. Brief for Archaeological Monitoring

2.1 To provide a record of archaeological deposits which are damaged or removed by any development [including services and landscaping] permitted by the current planning consent.

2.2 The significant archaeologically damaging activity in this proposal is the ground works associated with the new extension (4.20 x 3.70m in size), principally foundation trenches. Any ground works, and also the upcast soil, are to be closely monitored during and after stripping by the building contractor. Adequate time is to be allowed for archaeological recording of archaeological deposits during excavation, and of soil sections following excavation.

3. Arrangements for Monitoring

3.1 To carry out the monitoring work the developer will appoint an archaeologist (the archaeological contractor) who must be approved by SCCAS/CT.

3.2 The developer or his contracted archaeologist will give SCCAS/CT five working days notice of the commencement of ground works on the site, in order that the work of the archaeological contractor may be monitored. The method and form of development will also be monitored to ensure that it conforms to previously agreed locations and techniques upon which this brief is based.

3.3 Allowance must be made to cover archaeological costs incurred in monitoring the development works by the contract archaeologist. The size of the contingency should be estimated by the approved archaeological contractor, based upon the outline works in this Brief and Specification and the building contractor's programme of works and time-table.

3.4 If unexpected remains are encountered SCCAS/CT must be informed immediately. Amendments to this specification may be made to ensure adequate provision for archaeological recording.

4. Specification

- 4.1 The developer shall afford access at all reasonable times to SCCAS/CT and the contracted archaeologist to allow archaeological monitoring of building and engineering operations which disturb the ground.
- 4.2 Opportunity must be given to the contracted archaeologist to hand excavate any discrete archaeological features which appear during earth moving operations, retrieve finds and make measured records as necessary. Where it is necessary to see archaeological detail one of the soil faces is to be trowelled clean.
- 4.3 All archaeological features exposed must be planned at a scale of 1:20 or 1:50 on a plan showing the proposed layout of the development, depending on the complexity of the data to be recorded. Sections should be drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 again depending on the complexity to be recorded.
- 4.4 A photographic record of the work is to be made of any archaeological features, consisting of both monochrome photographs and colour transparencies/high resolution digital images.
- 4.5 All contexts must be numbered and finds recorded by context. All levels should relate to Ordnance Datum.
- 4.6 Archaeological contexts should, where possible, be sampled for palaeo-environmental remains. Best practice should allow for sampling of interpretable and datable archaeological deposits and provision should be made for this. Advice on the appropriateness of the proposed strategies will be sought from Rachel Ballantyne, English Heritage Regional Adviser for Archaeological Science (East of England). A guide to sampling archaeological deposits (Murphy, P.L. and Wiltshire, P.E.J., 1994, *A guide to sampling archaeological deposits for environmental analysis*) is available for viewing from SCCAS.
- 4.7 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations in this principle are agreed with SCCAS/CT during the course of the monitoring).
- 4.8 The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Historic Environment Record.

5. Report Requirements

- 5.1 An archive of all records and finds is to be prepared consistent with the principles of *Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP2)*, particularly Appendix 3. This must be deposited with the County Historic Environment Record within three months of the completion of work. It will then become publicly accessible.
- 5.2 The project manager must consult the County Historic Environment Record Officer to obtain an event number for the work. This number will be unique for each project or site and must be clearly marked on any documentation relating to the work.
- 5.3 Finds must be appropriately conserved and stored in accordance with *UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines*.
- 5.4 The project manager should consult the SCC Archive Guidelines 2008 and also the County HER Officer regarding the requirements for the deposition of the archive (conservation, ordering, organisation, labelling, marking and storage) of excavated material and the archive.

- 5.5 The WSI should state proposals for the deposition of the digital archive relating to this project with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS), and allowance should be made for costs incurred to ensure proper deposition (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/policy.html>).
- 5.6 The finds, as an indissoluble part of the site archive, should be deposited with the County Historic Environment Record if the landowner can be persuaded to agree to this. If this is not possible for all or any part of the finds archive, then provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration, analysis) as appropriate.
- 5.7 A report on the fieldwork and archive, consistent with the principles of MAP2, particularly Appendix 4, must be provided. The report must summarise the methodology employed, the stratigraphic sequence, and give a period by period description of the contexts recorded, and an inventory of finds. The objective account of the archaeological evidence must be clearly distinguished from its interpretation. The Report must include a discussion and an assessment of the archaeological evidence, including palaeoenvironmental remains recovered from palaeosols and cut features. Its conclusions must include a clear statement of the archaeological value of the results, and their significance in the context of the Regional Research Framework (*East Anglian Archaeology*, Occasional Papers 3 & 8, 1997 and 2000).
- 5.8 An unbound copy of the assessment report, clearly marked DRAFT, must be presented to both SCCAS/CT for approval within six months of the completion of fieldwork unless other arrangements are negotiated with the project sponsor and SCCAS/CT.
- 5.9 Following acceptance, two copies of the assessment report should be submitted to SCCAS/CT. A single hard copy should be presented to the County Historic Environment Record as well as a digital copy of the approved report.
- 5.10 A summary report, in the established format, suitable for inclusion in the annual 'Archaeology in Suffolk' section of the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology*, must be prepared and included in the project report.
- 5.11 Where appropriate, a digital vector trench plan should be included with the report, which must be compatible with MapInfo GIS software, for integration in the County Historic Environment Record. AutoCAD files should be also exported and saved into a format that can be imported into MapInfo (for example, as a Drawing Interchange File or .dxf) or already transferred to .TAB files.
- 5.12 At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> must be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms.
- 5.13 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to County Historic Environment Record. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).

Specification by: Dr Jess Tipper

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service Conservation Team
Environment and Transport Service Delivery
9-10 The Churchyard, Shire Hall
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk IP33 2AR
Tel. : 01284 352197
E-mail: jess.tipper@suffolk.gov.uk

Date: 3 September 2009

Reference: /8TheStreet-Herringswell2009

This brief and specification remains valid for six months from the above date. If work is not carried out in full within that time this document will lapse; the authority should be notified and a revised brief and specification may be issued.

If the work defined by this brief forms a part of a programme of archaeological work required by a Planning Condition, the results must be considered by the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council, who have the responsibility for advising the appropriate Planning Authority.

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Appendix 2: Context List

Context	Identifier	Description
0001	Unstratified	
0002	Ditch cut	Ditch cut, c. 2m wide and 0.6m deep. Sealed beneath layer 0005 and cutting 0004.
0003	Ditch fill	Fill of ditch 0002. Homogenous dark silty-sand with some charcoal and burnt flint.
0004	Layer	Grey brown silt sand. Suggest buried soil. Cut by 0002 and sealed by 0005
0005	Layer	Homogenous layer of pale brown sand. Becoming slightly darker towards the base.