



**University of
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Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Strip, Plan and Sample
Excavation and Watching Brief on land adjacent to
19 Main Street, Kilby, Leicestershire
NGR SP 6194 9541**

Jennifer Browning



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**An Archaeological Strip, Plan
and Sample Excavation and
Watching Brief on land adjacent to
19, Main Street,
Kilby, Leicestershire
(NGR SP 6194 9541)**

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For: Mr. T. Bryan

Approved by:

Signed:



Date: 23.10.2013. Revised 14.05.2014

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CONTENTS

Summary	3
1. Introduction.....	3
2. Site Description, Topography and Geology	4
3. Historical and Archaeological Background.....	6
4. Aims and Objectives	6
5. Methodology	6
6. Results.....	7
7. Conclusion	9
8. Archive.....	10
9. Bibliography	10
10. Acknowledgements.....	11
Appendix 1: The Post Roman Pottery	12
Appendix II: Summary List of Contexts.....	13

FIGURES

Figure 1: Location plan Scale 1:50000	4
Figure 2: Site location (arrowed)	5
Figure 3: Plan of proposed dwelling.....	5
Figure 4: Location of trenches and feature within the application area.....	8
Figure 5: Feature (1) [2].....	9
Figure 6: Foundation trench looking north-east 1m scale.....	9

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Jennifer Browning and Gavin Speed

Summary

Archaeological work was undertaken prior to groundworks for a new dwelling on land adjacent to 19, Main Street, Kilby, Leicestershire (NGR SP 6194 9541). Five trenches were excavated within the area, comprising approximately 35% of the site and c. 50% of the areas which will be impacted on. Investigation revealed a single large, but apparently shallow, archaeological feature at the edge of the area, from which pottery dating from the 11th to the 15th centuries was recovered. It was not possible to expose the full extent of the feature, as this was outside the house footprint. The depth and lack of definition suggests that the feature may represent a spread of material infilling a hollow, rather than a ditch. No archaeological features were revealed across the rest of the house footprint. A watching brief was also undertaken in April 2014 during the groundworks but no further archaeological deposits were revealed. The archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council under the Accession Number X. A170. 2013.

1. Introduction

This report presents the results of archaeological work carried out in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), (DCLG 2012) on land adjacent to Manor Farm 19 Main Street, Kilby, Leicestershire (SP 6194 9541), within Blaby District. The work was undertaken in October 2013 and April 2014 by University of Leicester Archaeological Services on behalf of Mr. T. Bryan. Planning permission has been granted for the erection of a dwelling house and associated parking (Unit 1), Planning applications 11/0770/FUL. The archaeological work comprised topsoil stripping and the excavation of trenches within the within the footprint of the proposed dwelling followed by a watching brief during the groundworks (P.A 11/0770/1/PX).

The application site lies within an area of archaeological potential, as indicated by its location within the historic medieval and post-medieval settlement core. Following National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Section 12 Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment (DCLG 2012). Leicestershire County Council, Historic and Natural Environment Team (LCCHNET) as archaeological advisors to the planning authority required that an archaeological strip map and sample excavation be carried out to assess the potential for archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed development.

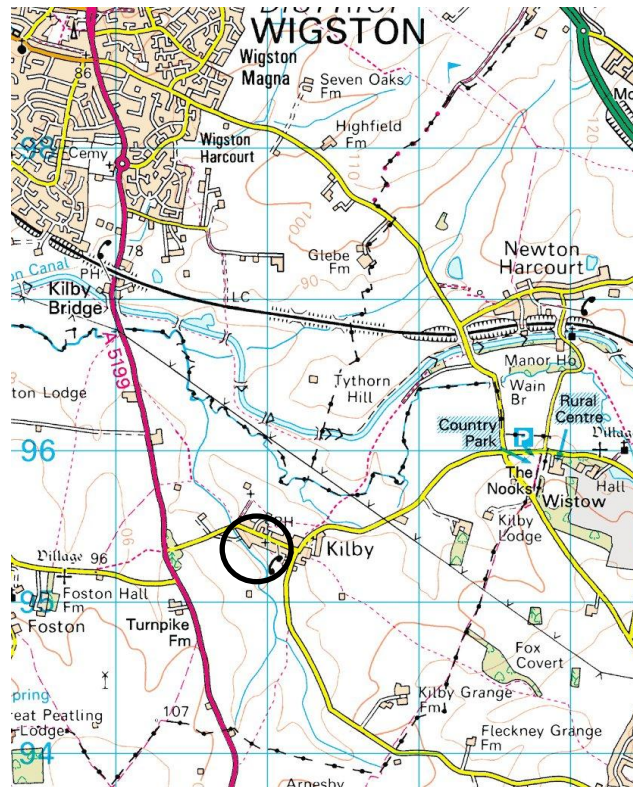


Figure 1: Location plan Scale 1:50000

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2. Site Description, Topography and Geology

The development area is located within the historic core of Kilby, immediately behind Main Street, on a paddock associated with Manor Farm. The land consists of pasture and slopes up south-east from the entrance and the extant farm buildings. These topographic differences mean that the proposed formation level is lower on the eastern side of the site compared with the western side.

The British Geological Survey of Great Britain indicates that Blue Lias Formation and Charmouth Mudstone Formation (undifferentiated) - Mudstone. Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 183 to 204 million years ago in the Jurassic and Triassic Periods. Local environment previously dominated by shallow lime-mud seas. The superficial deposits can be till, Mid Pleistocene - Diamicton. Superficial Deposits (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>) Accessed on 21st October 2013.

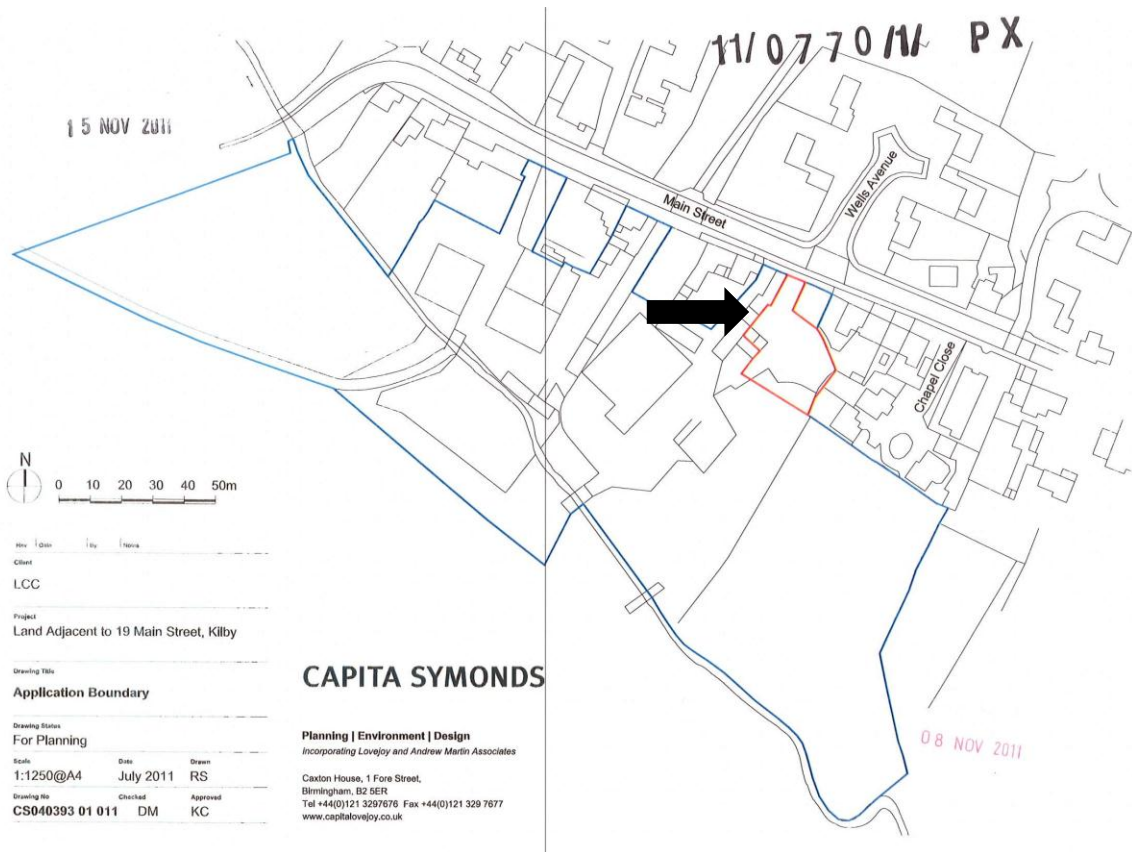


Figure 2: Site location (arrowed)



Figure 3: Plan of proposed dwelling

3. Historical and Archaeological Background

The site is located within the medieval settlement core of Kilby and may therefore have provided evidence of for settlement remains dating to this period. As it was deemed likely that the proposed development would have a damaging effect on any archaeological deposits, should they exist, archaeological work was required by the planning authority following approved Written Schemes of Investigation (WSI's Clay 2013; Beamish 2014).

4. Aims and Objectives

The purpose of the current archaeological work was:

- To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits.
- To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed ground works.
- To record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the ground works.
- To advance understanding of the heritage assets
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

The archaeological strip, map and sample excavation and watching brief had the potential to contribute to the following research aims:

Medieval (Lewis 2006; Knight et al 2012)

The area lies close to the medieval village core and may contribute to the study of rural medieval settlement and East Midlands Research Strategy 6.7.7.2 (Knight et al 2012, 94; Lewis 2006).

5. Methodology

The work followed the WSI (Clay 2013) and adhered to the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct* (rev. 2010) and adhered to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (rev. 2008).

The supplied machine was a JCB 3CX with a 1.6m ditching bucket, therefore in order to manage the spoil heaps generated by the work, a series of trenches were excavated, with the spoil heaped between them. This provided a *c.* 50% coverage of the affected area and allowed the option to excavate the area between the trenches, should archaeological deposits be identified. The trenches were excavated down to the top of down to formation level, or archaeological level if higher. The trenches were visually inspected, hand-cleaned where appropriate and recorded following standard ULAS methods.

6. Results

Five trenches were excavated across the area down to the natural substratum. The trenches were typically shallow in depth and there was no actual subsoil, only an interface between the topsoil and the natural substratum. This demonstrated that the differences in level were natural rather than man-made. Topsoil consisted of dark brown slightly clayey silty loam. The natural subsoil was generally encountered at between 0.2m and 0.4m below current ground level and consisted of mixed yellowish and pinkish sandy clay, with pebble, gravel and sandy patches. Trenches 1-3 did not reveal any evidence for archaeological deposits, although modern features, including a linear feature filled with topsoil and two dumps of stones, probably consolidation, were observed. An animal burial (piglet) was observed in Trench 5. The bones were not recovered as this was a recent natural mortality associated with the adjacent farm.

A single archaeological feature (fill [1]; cut [2]) was observed at the south-west ends of trenches 4 and 5 (Figure 4). This was located at the edge of the proposed development area and the top of the feature was present at a depth of 0.3-0.4m below ground level. It was large, in excess of 5m from north-east to south-west, however it was not possible to establish its extent or define the feature further without going out of the proposed development area. The fill consisted of mid-yellow brown sandy clay with frequent gravel and small pebbles. Investigation suggested it was 0.1m deep at the north-west edge but became deeper (0.2m+) away from the edges. The shallow depth and lack of a defined profile is more indicative of a spread of material, perhaps filling a hollow, rather than a ditch. Nine pottery sherds recovered from the feature dated from *c.*1100 to the 14th or 15th centuries and included joining sherds from the same vessel (D. Sawday- Appendix 1). The topography meant that the proposed formation level at this end of the build was close to current ground level and therefore it is likely that the build may not impact significantly upon the feature.

An archaeological watching brief of the area where the archaeological deposit was revealed in the south-west corner of the development site was undertaken on 9th April 2014. The aim of the watching brief was to gain more information on the feature identified during the previous work.

The foundation trench was L-shaped, 2m E-W and 7.5m N-S, 0.6m wide, and 1m deep, cutting the clay natural substratum. A thin (0.2m) layer of disturbed, mixed, and compressed topsoil was observed in the far corner of the trench, which contained no finds. No archaeological deposits or finds were present. Feature [2] was not observed, however, the building plan has changed slightly, and the south-end of the dwelling is slightly further north, thus likely avoiding the layer / spread [2].

Table 1: Trench dimensions

Trench No.	Length (m)	Max depth (m)	Min depth (m)	Max Topsoil Depth (m)	Archaeology present
1	13.5	0.40	0.28	0.27	No
2	19	0.40	0.30	0.40	No
3	20	0.40	0.27	0.30	No
4	25	0.50	0.20	0.30	Yes
5	16.5	0.40	0.30	0.40	Yes

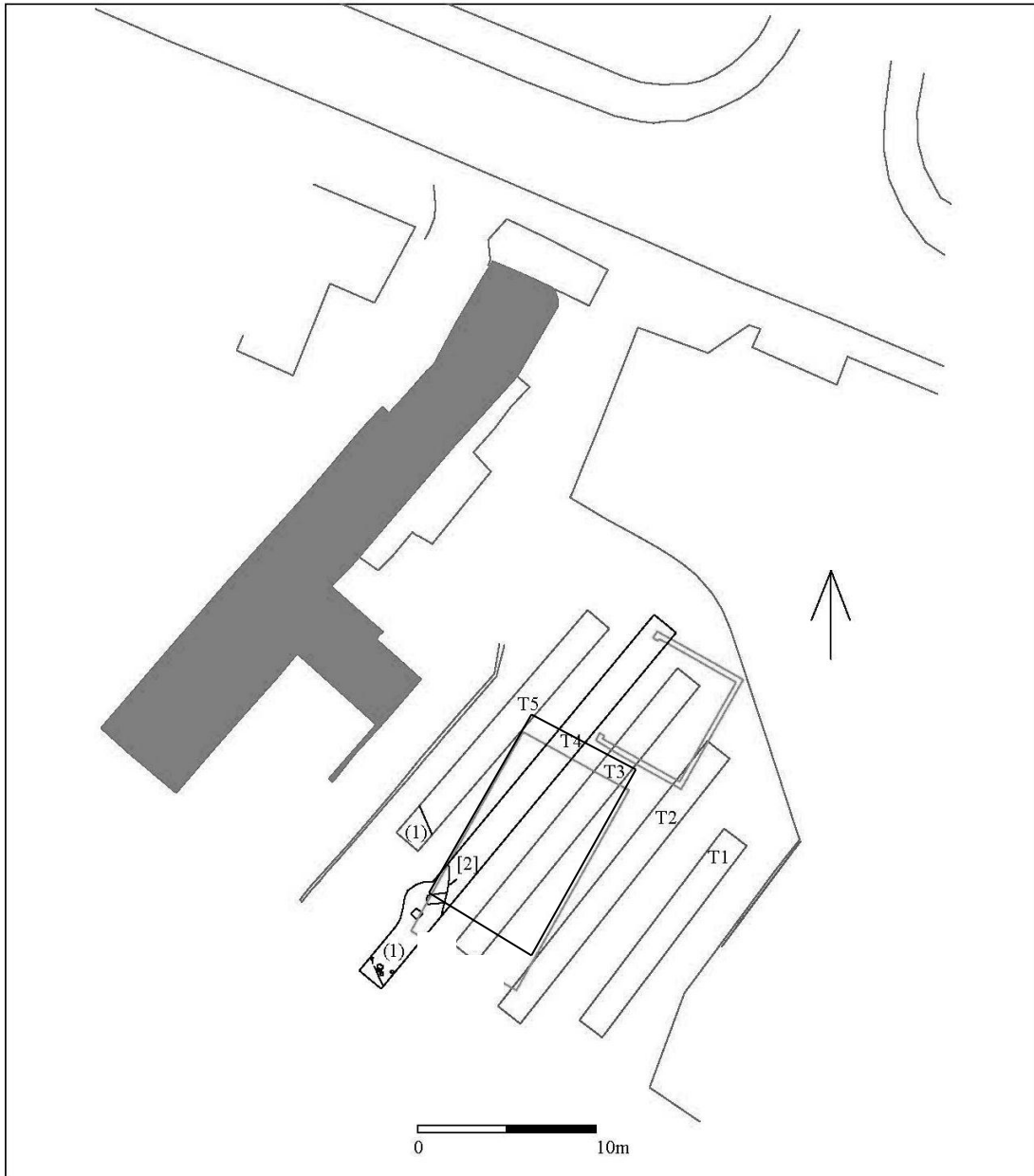


Figure 4: Location of trenches and feature within the application area.
Location of new dwelling is superimposed.



Figure 5: Feature (1) [2]



Figure 6 Foundation trench looking north-east 1m scale

7. Conclusion

Archaeological work undertaken prior to the construction of a new dwelling on land adjacent to 19 Main Street has revealed evidence for an archaeological feature dating to the medieval period. The feature was located on the south-western side of the site and was orientated approximately north-south. Investigative sondages indicated that it was likely to be shallow, therefore possibly representing an infilled hollow or trackway rather than a ditch, which might have been expected to have more defined edges. Pottery sherds recovered from the fill denoted activity dating generally from *c.*1100 to the 14th or 15th centuries (D. Sawday; Appendix 1). The feature is located at the corner of the proposed new dwelling in an area where the proposed level is approximately at current ground level. No other archaeological features were identified across the house plot. Feature [2] was not observed during the watching brief, which is likely due to the building plan changes so that the garage and house now join, and the south-end of the dwelling is slightly further north, thus likely to have avoided the layer / spread [2].

8. Archive

The site archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council HNET, under the Accession No. X170 2013

The paper archive contains site notes and pro forma trench sheets, 1 plan on permatrace and a photo index. The digital archive consists of photographs and the physical archive contains medieval pottery and a single fragment of bone.

If appropriate, a summary of the work will be submitted for publication in the local archaeological journal *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society* and *Rutland Record* in due course. The report will be listed on the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) held by the Archaeological Data Service at the University of York. Available at: <http://oasis.ac.uk/>

OASIS Information

Project Name	Land adjacent to 19 Main Street, Kilby, Leics.
Project Type	Archaeological strip, plan and sample
Project Manager	P. Clay
Project Supervisor	J. Browning
Previous/Future work	-
Current Land Use	Paddock
Development Type	1 new dwelling
Reason for Investigation	As a condition
Position in the Planning Process	Full determination
Site Co ordinates	NGR SP 6194 9541
Start/end dates of field work	17.10.2013
Archive Recipient	LCC
Study Area	0.05 hectares

9. Bibliography

Beamish, M. 2014 *Written scheme of investigation for archaeological work at land adjacent to 19, Main Street, Kilby, Leicestershire (SP 6194 9541)* Ref 14-913.

Brown, D., 2008 *Standard and guidance for the preparation of Archaeological Archives* (Institute for Archaeologists)

Clay, P. 2013 *Written scheme of investigation for archaeological work at land adjacent to 19, Main Street, Kilby, Leicestershire (SP 6194 9541)* Ref 14-546.

Institute for Archaeologists (IfA), (rev. 2012), *Code of Conduct*

Institute for Archaeologists (IfA), (rev. 2008), *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*

10. Acknowledgements

The fieldwork was carried out by Jennifer Browning and Gavin Speed for ULAS. Deborah Sawday identified the pottery and Patrick Clay managed the project. I would like to thank Ray and Travers Bryan for their help and co-operation during this watching brief.

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Updated 14/05/2014

Appendix 1: The Post Roman Pottery

Deborah Sawday

The Finds

The pottery, twelve sherds, weighing 137 grams, was catalogued with reference to the guidelines set out by the Medieval Pottery Research Group, (MPRG 1998; MPRG, 2001) and the ULAS fabric series (Sawday 1989; 2009).

The results are shown below (table 1). Nine of the sherds, weighing 94 grams and with an average sherd weight of 10.44 grams, were from a stratified context and dated from c.1100 to the 14th or 15th centuries. Three more sherds, dating from c.1100 to 1300 were unstratified, but had a relatively large average sherd weight of 14.33 grams, suggesting that undisturbed archaeological levels may survive in the vicinity. Three of the sherds in the Chilvers Coton fabric CC2 evidently belonged to one vessel, and examples of co-joining sherds were found amongst both the stratified and unstratified material.

The range of fabrics is typical of that found in the locality – both Potters Marston and Chilvers Coton in particular - were major pottery production centres supplying the region in the medieval period. The origins of the Oxidised and the Coarse Shelly ware are thought to lie to the south-east, most probably in north Northamptonshire. This material is of particular interest as it is only the second time the author has seen an assemblage of medieval pottery from the core of the village.

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Sawday, D., 1989 ‘The post Roman pottery’, 28-41 in J.N. Lucas, ‘An excavation in the north east quarter of Leicester: Elbow Lane, 1977’, *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society* 63, 18-47

Sawday, D., 2009, ‘The medieval and post medieval pottery and tile’ in J. Coward and G. Speed, *Urban Life in Leicester: An Archaeological Excavation at Freeschool Lane Vol 2 Specialist Reports ULAS Report No.2009-140,v2*, 36-182.

Table 1: The medieval pottery by fabric, sherd numbers and weight (grams) by context.

Context	Fabric/ware	No	Gr	Comments
POT				
1 (SE end)	OS2 – Oxidised Sandy 1	1	2	Body –sooted/burnt externally, c.1100-1250.
1	CS – Coarse Shelly	1	3	Body, c.1100-1400
1	CC1 – Chilvers Coton 1	2	3	Join, green glaze on exterior surfaces, c.1250-1300
1	CC1	1	42	Abraded, basal angle & lower wall. Hard fired/reduced, c.1250-1300
1	CC2 – Chilvers Coton 2	3	35	Sooted externally – probably one pot, c.1300-1500.
1	CC2	1	9	Greenish yellow glaze on interior, c.1300-1500.
U/S T2 (SW end)	PM – Potters Marston	2	33	Join – body, traces of external sooting, c.1100-1300.
U/S T5 (NE end)	PM	1	10	Everted hammer-headed jar rim, 12th or early 13th C.
MISC				
1	Animal Bone	1		Shaft fragment (indeterminate)

<p>Site/ Parish: land adj. 19 Main Street, Kilby, Leics</p> <p>Accession No.: XA170 2013</p> <p>Document Ref: kilby2.sdocx</p> <p>Material: pot & misc. find</p> <p>Site Type: village core, rear frontage</p>	<p>Submitter: J. Browning</p> <p>Identifier: D. Sawday</p> <p>Date of Identification: 22.10.2013</p> <p>Method of Recovery: strip/plan/sample</p> <p>Job Number: 14-546</p>
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Appendix II: Summary List of Contexts

The following table is a list of subsoil and spreads observed during the archaeological work, which were assigned context numbers in order to locate the finds.

Context	Description
1	Rubble spread (modern)
2	Silty clay soil running beneath 1(buried topsoil/silting into former hollow)
3	Thin spread of rubble (linear in shape) no more than 0.1m deep
4	Rubble spread
5	Mid reddish brown sandy silt(subsoil)
6	Dark brown silty clay(buried topsoil/silting into former hollow)
7	Subsoil
8	Subsoil (interface with topsoil)

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